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East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-235
Monday
7 December 1992

Daily Report
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Japan

Government Documents View Rice Liberalization

OW0512153692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1509 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Japan's rice market will be virtually pried open if Tokyo accepts a plan to convert all nontariff trade barriers to tariffs, according to government documents obtained Saturday by KYODO News Service.

The internal documents brush aside speculation high tariffs can stop a flood of foreign rice even if Japan accepts the tariffication system drafted at the end of last year by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"If it is impossible to lower the price of rice at home in tandem with the reduction each year of tariffs, domestically produced rice will lose its competitive edge and pave the way for an effectively full liberalization (of the rice market)," the documents say.

Japan, arguing on the grounds of food security and to protect farmers from cheap imports, has opposed tariffication of rice trade.

Dunkel's draft stipulates that all nontarrif barriers, such as import bans or quotas, should be converted to high tariffs, to be reduced over six years at an annual rate of at least 15 percent for each item, or at an average rate of 36 percent for farm trade.

The international trade commission of the United States projected Japan's tariffs on rice that would be imposed for the first year at 700 percent, based on a calculation that the cost of rice in Japan is eight times the average international price.

It also estimated the Japanese tariffs on rice would stand at 595 percent six years later if they are cut by 15 percent annually.

Noting the tariffication of rice is designed to equalize conditions for competition at home and abroad, and not for the ban on imported rice, the government documents say, "with tariffication, it is highly possible for domestic rice whose quality is below average to be replaced by imports."

Although not specifying how much rice would be imported, the documents indicate Japan would have to accept a large amount if it agrees with the tariffication idea to bring the long-stalled Uruguay Round of global trade talks to a successful conclusion.

The talks started moving again toward completion by the end of the year in the wake of an agreement last month between the U.S. and the European Community on farm export subsidies.

Even if high tariffs are imposed on rice, Japanese rice cannot compete with less expensive foreign rice without lowering domestic prices at the same pace as the reduction of tariffs, the documents say.

Agriculture Products Imports Liberalization Urged

OW0512144892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 5 Dec 92

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Pressure is growing for Japan to accept an introduction of tariffication without exception on agricultural imports. At the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the GATT, Japan is being urged to liberalize the nation's market not only in rice but also in grain and dairy products. Trade negotiations are likely to have a serious affect on the way Japanese farmers deal with these products.

Besides rice, import liberalization is being demanded for wheat, barley, powdered milk, and butter. At present the government imposes quantity and value restrictions on imports of these items in order to protect Japanese dairy farmers as well as rice farmers, both of which are urged to shift production to other products. If the introduction of tariffication without exception on farm products is agreed to at the Uruguay Round of talks, these import restrictions would be replaced by duties.

The Japanese Government feels the price and imported volume of these products would be greatly affected by trends in the international market when imports are liberalized, and that will deal a serious blow to Japanese farmers. The government intends to maintain its current posture that introduction of duties is not acceptable on these items or on rice.

However, Japan is unlikely to be supported at the negotiations because many participating countries accept the tariffication proposal as a precondition for talks. Japan will face a hard time in maintaining measures which protect farmers.

Hiraiwa Urges 'Political Decision' on Rice Issue

OW0712044292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Japan should be prepared to open its rice market to expedite the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks and freer world trade, the head of Japan's top business group hinted Monday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), dropped the hint in a meeting of Keidanren's top officials with International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, government officials said.

Hiraiwa indirectly pressed for a political decision to wrap up the Uruguay Round talks, which would force Japan to open its rice market, the officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

They quoted Hiraiwa as saying, "Japan should make a positive contribution to build up a free, transparent, and fair market."

Watanabe replied that Japan should avoid being isolated and blamed for failure of the global trade talks under the

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since it is one of the largest beneficiaries of the free trade system, the MITI officials said.

In the same meeting, Seiji Suzuki, Keidanren deputy chairman and chairman of Mitsubishi Kasei Corp., called for further spending on public works.

Suzuki said the government should attach great importance to domestic demand-driven economic growth when preparing the budget for the next fiscal year, which starts next April 1.

The MITI officials quoted Suzuki as saying, "We cannot yet feel effects of the (government's) pump-priming measures as the Diet's approval of the supplementary budget has been delayed."

Watanabe commented that despite the government's large-scale economic stimulus package, private consumption and corporate capital spending remain sluggish.

The minister expressed doubts about effects of an income tax cut to prop up the economy.

"Although some call for an income tax cut, a cut in investment taxes would be much more effective," Watanabe said.

Farm Minister Asked To Go on U.S., EC Mission

OW0712054592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0438 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has asked his farm minister to meet his counterparts in the United States and Europe as efforts to help wrap up global trade talks intensify, government and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sources said Monday.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu would use the visit, tentatively planned for Tuesday [8 December] through Friday, to restate Japan's staunch opposition to a scheme that could force Japan to lift its ban on rice imports, said sources close to Miyazawa.

Japan is opposed to a proposal before the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks to replace all trade barriers with tariffs.

Tanabu is tentatively slated to meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in Washington and Ray MacSharry, commissioner for agriculture of the European Community, the sources said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a press conference that Miyazawa and Tanabu discussed the trip Monday.

Kato said LDP officials are probing whether a visit can be arranged before the scheduled end of the current Diet session Friday. The session is expected to be extended for a few days.

Cabinet ministers are required to obtain permission from parliament to travel abroad while the Diet is in session.

Farm Minister Agrees To Visit

OW0712090092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu will embark on Tuesday [8 December] on a tour of the United States and Europe as part of efforts to help wrap up global trade talks, government officials said Monday.

Tanabu met Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday and agreed on his visit to Washington and Brussels, the officials said.

Tanabu will use the visit, planned for Tuesday through Friday, to restate the government's opposition to a scheme that could force Japan to lift its ban on rice imports, said sources close to Miyazawa.

Japan is opposed to a proposal before the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks to replace all trade barriers with tariffs.

Tanabu is tentatively slated to meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in Washington and Ray MacSharry, commissioner for agriculture of the European Community Commission, the sources said.

Meets Press About Upcoming Visit

OW0712123892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Masami Tanabu, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries minister, is set to visit the United States and the EC. His tour has been approved by Prime Minister Miyazawa. After obtaining consent from the current Diet session, Minister Tanabu will leave Japan tomorrow for the United States. He is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. Trade Representative Hills in Washington on 8 December. He will then fly to Europe for talks with Ray MacSharry, commissioner for agriculture of the EC Commission.

Minister Tanabu told a news conference tonight that as long as the Diet resolution calling for self-sufficiency in rice remains in force, he will not take any action incompatible with the resolution. He indicated that he will reiterate Japan's conventional position to the United States and the EC that Japan cannot accept the tariffication without exception which will eventually lead to the liberalization of the Japanese rice market. However, the agriculture minister indicated at the news conference that Japan is in a difficult situation at the new round of the multilateral trade negotiations, saying that whether Japan's position is accepted or not at the negotiations depends on how other nations think of it.

Further on 7 Dec News Conference

OW0712124892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu announced Monday [7 December] that he will visit the United States and Europe from Tuesday to Friday to reiterate Japan's opposition to the inclusion of rice in a tariffication scheme under the resumed Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

Tanabu told reporters after meeting Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that he will meet U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills in Washington and Ray MacSharry, farm commissioner of the European Community (EC), in Brussels.

It is unusual for a minister to travel abroad during an extraordinary Diet session, but this will be the last chance for Japan to reiterate its policy on rice at a ministerial level, given the political schedule from now on, including a cabinet reshuffle expected later this week, government sources said.

The Uruguay Round talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are now moving toward a year-end political conclusion, with working-level negotiations fully resuming Monday in Geneva in the wake of an agreement between the U.S. and the EC over farm export subsidies.

Explaining that the upcoming visit to the U.S. and Europe stems from Miyazawa's strong wishes, Tanabu said, "we will not yield to conditions, and will not change our basic policy" of rejecting tariffication without exception.

The minister stressed that the purpose of the visit is to explain more clearly Japan's domestic situation.

The U.S. and the EC are said to have agreed on not allowing rice to be exempted from the proposal to convert all nontariff farm import barriers into tariffs.

Tanabu, however, said he will do his best to persuade other negotiating nations at a political level, saying, "We cannot let the situation be without sending anybody or saying anything."

After gaining Diet approval on Monday night, Tanabu is scheduled to attend a meeting with upper house members concerned with agriculture, forestry, and fisheries on Tuesday morning, and will leave for Washington that afternoon to meet with Hills.

The minister is slated to move to Europe on Wednesday, meet with MacSharry on Thursday and return to Japan Friday afternoon.

No Accord With U.S. on NTT Procurement Pact

OW0512043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0417 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Japan and the United States have failed to reach final agreement on terms of extending a bilateral arrangement for procurement of supplies by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), the government announced Saturday. The announcement, made by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry, said the two countries will seek to reach final agreement on the issue after Monday in bilateral negotiations being held in Geneva.

The agreement, due to expire at the end of December, stipulates that NTT apply fair and indiscriminate procedures in procurement of supplies from domestic and foreign firms. Both countries have already reached basic agreement to extend the pact.

But Japan proposed that the agreement be scrapped when a pact governing NTT's procurement is worked out under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), while the U.S. insisted on continuing the arrangement, ministry officials said.

150 Complaints on U.S. Base-Related Incidents

OW0712144092 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 7 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] At the end of November for this year, the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau [DFAB] had received 150 protests and requests concerning accidents and incidents resulting from military exercises by U.S. Forces in Okinawa. More than one resolution every two days has been submitted by the local autonomous government, political parties and those local assemblies with the DFAB. The Okinawa Prefectural Government has so far filed requests (including verbal requests) on 36 occasions with the Foreign Ministry, U.S. Forces in Okinawa, and U.S. secretaries of defense and state requesting that U.S. military bases in Okinawa be relocated and downsized, and that the live-firing exercises across the No. 104 Prefectural Highway by U.S. Forces in Okinawa be suspended or abolished. The frequency of these requests demonstrates that the Okinawa situation remains unchanged despite the end of the cold war.

Since the beginning of this year, a flurry of protests and requests have been filed with the DFAB against the "forced use of land for military purposes by the Prefectural Land Expropriation Commission," the "intensifying live-fire exercises," the "overturning helicopter incident," and the "forest fires caused by military training."

According to the Facility Bureau of the DFAB, the requests which the DFAB has received have been forwarded to the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, which has in return sent them to the bureaus of the concerned ministries and agencies and the Prime Minister's Office, after classifying them according to their contents. According to the Facility Bureau, the DFAB's duties are to maintain and manage U.S. Forces facilities on Okinawa and consult with the United States concerning matters (including military exercises) that involve U.S. Forces on Okinawa which fall within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry.

Nonetheless, the DFAB is actually playing the role of contact point between localities and U.S. Forces in Okinawa concerning their military exercises. Commenting on this situation, Asaaki Uehara, a public affairs official at the DFAB, said that "Kisenbaru [a local area in Okinawa] struggled in the past to raise the live-firing exercise across the No. 14 Prefectural Highway to the level of a symbolic issue, because it involves the presence of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, and we have played the role of contact point between localities and U.S. Forces concerning these live-firing exercises out of consideration for Okinawans' feelings."

Shinjin Harada, chief of the Status of Forces Division in the Foreign Ministry, said that "I think that since the DFAB is charged with dealing with matters that arise because of U.S. military exercises in Okinawa, that it is consulting with the commanders of U.S. Forces in Okinawa."

As for requests by Okinawans for a halt in the live-firing exercises by U.S. Forces in Okinawa, Mr. Harada reiterated the basic position of the government, saying that the "Japanese Government is in no position to ask U.S. Forces to halt military exercises for security reasons." He did say, however, that "we will convey those requests to the American Embassy in Tokyo and the U.S. Forces Command in Japan."

It seems highly likely that the DFAB, which has received protests against and requests for a halt to military exercises by U.S. Forces on Okinawa, has deflated problems arising from U.S. military bases on Okinawa. The DFAB has refused to accept protests from residents against port calls by U.S. nuclear-powered submarines to Okinawa, saying that the "matter is not our jurisdiction."

NATO forces conducted their "Teamwork" combined military exercise across a few West European nations, and the combined military exercise was held mainly in residential areas. Article 45 of the Status of Forces of Agreement concluded between Germany and other NATO member nations clearly carries a punitive provision that "in a case where any military exercises inflict damage, military exercises shall be suspended for three months." The Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement has no such punitive provision, but only says that "proper consideration must be given to public safety." The present situation is that the prevention of accidents and incidents is left to efforts by the U.S. side.

A helicopter overturned at Futenma Air Station, heightening apprehensions among residents who live near the air station. One month later, an American parachutist dropped onto the roof of a private house on Ie Island, damaging the house and a nearby plot of farm land. Both the Japanese Government and U.S. Forces have since made no mention of safety measures.

Asamitsu Takayama, chief of the Public Affairs Office of the Okinawa Prefectural Government, said: "We have made verbal requests to the Foreign Ministry on many occasions. We hope that these accidents and incidents will be taken up as state-to-state issues." No effective measures have been found for resolving problems arising from the presence of U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

Basel Convention Application to U.S. Bases Viewed

OW0712105792 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 5 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Tokyo—At the meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on 4 December, Eiichi Tamaki (Komeito) and Saneyoshi Furugen (Japan Communist Party) sought the view of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the Basel Convention, which deals with prohibition and punishment for the movement of toxic wastes across national borders—this in relation to environmental pollution inside U.S. military bases on Okinawa. While soil contaminated from the leakage of PCB's on Kadena Air Base has allegedly been transported to the U.S. mainland by ship, in the Basel Convention there is a strict regulation saying that unless it has been confirmed that wastes have been treated in an ecologically acceptable manner, the movement of such wastes across national borders is not permissible. Foreign Minister Watanabe said that "I am not sure whether the convention applies to (the bases in) Okinawa." This shows that the Foreign Ministry is unsure about its position on whether the Basel Convention applies to toxic wastes on U.S. military bases in Japan.

According to the Foreign Ministry, soil contaminated by PCB's on Kadena Base was excavated six times and completely disposed of. Around 110 tons of soil excavated during the first to the fifth time was moved to the U.S. mainland. The sixth time a total of 496 tons of soil was excavated and packed in drums, waiting for ship assignment. The U.S. side has said that disposal will take until July 1997.

Tamaki asserted that the Basel Convention stipulates that a written transport plan has to be submitted for approval or disapproval when wastes cross signatory countries's borders. Therefore, a written report is also required for wastes on U.S. military bases. However, Councillor Nomura of the Treaties Bureau of the Foreign Ministry said, "We cannot say for sure whether the Basel Convention applies to U.S. military facilities and areas. However, I think this is inappropriate in relation to matters pertaining to the status of U.S. Forces in Japan," thus indicating a negative view on the applicability of the convention to U.S. military facilities and areas. On the other hand, Director-General Sato of the North American Affairs Bureau limited himself to the statement that this matter would be dealt with based on established principles at the Environment Subcommittee under the Japan-U.S. joint committee, failing to mention the Basel Convention.

Furthermore, Furugen inquired about reports from the U.S. side that there has also been PCB soil contamination at Yokosuka Base. In response, Foreign Minister Watanabe said, "If this is true, we cannot remain indifferent; we will deal with it after verifying the facts."

Captain Says U.S. Fighters Involved in Near Miss

OW0512045492 Naha NHK Radio in Japanese 2212 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] It has been learned that two U.S. military fighters buzzed a Southwest Air Lines [SWAL] jetliner in the northern skies of Okinawa on 4 December as if the two U.S. military fighters were attempting to obstruct the flight path of the SWAL plane. The Transport Ministry has started an investigation.

According to a report provided to the Transport Ministry by the captain of the Boeing 737—SWAL Flight No. 12 which left Naha for Okayama—at 1047 on December 4, four warplanes appeared in the skies to the front right of the airliner at an altitude of 4,200 meters some 60 km north-northwest of Naha Airport. Of the four fighters, two crossed just under the SWAL jetliner's flight path as if they were trying to obstruct the jetliner's course. Because the two fighters came within 2-3 km of the jetliner, the SWAL jetliner was forced to turn right to avoid a collision. In the report, the captain of the SWAL jetliner said the fighters looked like F-15's or F/A-18's.

Taking into consideration the report and the fact that Self-Defense Forces warplanes were not flying when the near miss occurred, the Transport Ministry has asked the U.S. military headquarters in Japan to investigate the incident. At the same time, the Transport Ministry also directed SWAL to provide a detailed report on the near miss.

Regarding the incident, a source close to the U.S. Air Force said that several flight groups comprising certain units—one unit consists of two F-15 Eagle fighters stationed at Kadena Air Base and two F/A-18 Hornet fighters stationed on aircraft carriers of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet—were flying over Kadena Air Base before and after the near miss occurred. Nevertheless, the source said that no reports of a near miss were turned in by the pilots of those planes. The source also said that although there is a difference between Japan and the United States in near miss standards—the U.S. military's standard is less than 1,000 feet or about 300 meters—the U.S. military has not recieved any report of air traffic control problems.

Tokyo Considering Financial Support for Somalia

OW0512123392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—Japan is considering providing hundreds of millions of dollars for U.S.-led multilateral forces being dispatched to Somalia to ensure delivery of aid supplies to starving Somalis, government officials said Saturday.

The Finance Ministry and the Foreign Ministry are now discussing the exact amount of financial support that Japan will provide to the UN-authorized forces and the timing of the extension of the aid, according to the officials.

The donation is expected to be provided from a reserve fund in the fiscal 1992 budget.

Regarding personnel contributions to multinational efforts to save the famine-stricken African country, the officials said the government is studying the possibility of sending people such as doctors. Such a dispatch would be permissible in Japan's current legal framework, but Japan cannot join the U.S.-led forces because of constitutional restraints, the officials said.

On Thursday, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution authorizing the dispatch of multinational forces to Somalia and asking member states to contribute troops and money.

Miyazawa Urges Yeltsin To Make 'Early' Visit

OW0712040792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin to visit Japan at an early time, top government spokesman Koichi Kato said Monday.

Miyazawa made the request in a personal letter to Yeltsin delivered last Wednesday via the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said.

To pave the way for the visit, Miyazawa called for the early resumption of stalled working level talks on a long-standing territorial dispute, Kato said.

The talks are likely to be reopened this month in Moscow, Kato said.

The outcome of the talks would give an indication of when Yeltsin's visit could be rescheduled, Kato said.

"On our side, the visit could take place any time...The problem is whether the domestic situation in Russia permits the visit," Kato said.

Yeltsin cited domestic difficulties when he abruptly called off a scheduled mid-September visit, but he later suggested that Japan's inflexibility on a dispute over four islands off of Hokkaido was preventing the visit.

The islands were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

Miyazawa sent the letter in response to a message from Yeltsin last month thanking Japan for hosting an international aid conference in October for the former Soviet republics, Kato said.

Russian sources close to Yeltsin said last month that the president may visit Japan in early 1993.

Government Mulling Over 'Comfort Women' Issue

OW0712110892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0933 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Japan is still mulling over plans to compensate women forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers during World War II, the government said Monday, a year after three South Korean women filed a lawsuit seeking reparation for their suffering.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference that officials are still sifting through historic documents for new information on the wartime system of dispatching Korean and other women to frontline brothels.

The government will not be able to unveil compensation measures by the end of this year as pledged earlier, he said.

According to government sources, Japan is considering inaugurating a welfare fund for former Korean "comfort women."

Kato declined to give specific reasons for the delays, saying only that there had been requests for further investigations.

South Korea has expressed displeasure that Japan has not acknowledged the women's claims that they were forcibly recruited.

Many former "comfort women" say they were duped by recruiters, but government officials say there has been no historic documents in support of such allegations.

Kato said the few documents recovered after the government announced results of a related survey in July have not revealed any startling new facts pertaining to the military's involvement in the sex business.

The plight of former "comfort women" won wide international attention after three women from South Korea filed suit against the Japanese Government last December on the 50th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor.

At the time, Kato said the government had not been responsible for the brothels.

One month later, however, shortly before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was to go to Seoul on his first overseas trip, the government acknowledged the military played a role, citing newly unearthed documents.

Over the past year Kim Hak-sun and the two other original plaintiffs have been joined by other victims, and women from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Netherlands have also spoken out about their experiences.

The government's compensation plans are not directly related to the outcome of the trial, in which the three women are seeking 20 million yen each.

Japan maintains that it finalized war reparations when it established diplomatic ties with South Korea in 1965. The "comfort women" issue was not addressed at the time.

Historians say an estimated 70,000 to 200,000 women, the majority Koreans, were dispatched to battlefield brothels as Japanese troops fanned across Asia during World War II.

Many are believed to have died from diseases or were killed after Japan was defeated, the historians say.

Firms To Export 1.3 Million Tons of Steel to PRC

OW0712111192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Six major Japanese steelmakers will export 1.3 million tons of ordinary steel to China during the February-July period next year, Nippon Steel Corp. said Monday.

The agreement with China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corp. is the largest steel shipment since the first half of 1989 when Japanese firms shipped 1.89 million tons to the country, Nippon Steel officials said.

The six companies are Nippon Steel, NKK Corp., Kawasaki Steel Corp., Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., Kobe Steel Ltd. and Nisshin Steel Co.

The expanded exports were attributed to growing demand from China whose economy has seen steady growth, a Nippon Steel official said.

Prevention of Buildup of Excess Plutonium Viewed

OW0612041392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—The Science and Technology Agency is planning to store temporarily used fuels obtained from nuclear power plants to prevent a buildup of excess plutonium, agency sources said Sunday.

The agency aims at cutting back the supply of plutonium to be reprocessed from the used nuclear fuels, forecasting that the nation's demand for plutonium is unlikely to increase as much as had been expected in the coming decades, the sources said. The agency expects the temporary storage will reduce operations at a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility, planned for construction in the village of Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, in northern Japan. The plan is based on Japan's basic policy of not possessing unnecessary plutonium, the sources said.

Under the agency's original plan, the plutonium supply was expected to reach 85 tons by 2010, including 30 tons enriched and shipped from Europe, and 55 tons reprocessed at domestic plants. The agency had expected the supply to meet the demand for fuel, which was forecast to be 30-40 tons at fast-breeder reactors, and 50 tons at existing nuclear power plants. Some scientists doubt if the existing nuclear plants can consume 50 tons of plutonium because it costs more than uranium fuel.

The sources said it is wise to cut down the operations of the Rokkasho plant, which can enrich 800 tons of used nuclear fuel to produce about five tons of plutonium a year. Reduced operations at Rokkasho, however, means that used fuels from the nation's nuclear power plants must be stored temporarily at some sites.

For the proposed sites, the agency is considering storing the material in water pools and at warehouses at the premises of the nuclear power plants, the sources said. The agency has started investigating the safety and economic aspects of temporary storage both under water and at warehouses.

The Rokkasho plant, to be constructed by Japan Nuclear Fuel Co., also will have a radioactive waste storage center, and temporary storage there is also possible, the sources said. The entire facility of the Rokkasho plant will not, however, become fully operational until after the turn of the century.

Ozawa's Splinter Group Postpones Forming Faction

OW0612134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 6 KYODO—The inauguration of a new faction led by Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will be postponed until after the cabinet and top party posts are reshuffled, LDP sources said Sunday.

The faction, which earlier had been planned to be formed before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa announces the reshuffle Friday or Saturday, will be created around December 15, the sources said.

Hata, a protege of former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, launched a study group called Reform Forum 21 in October after Keizo Obuchi, Ozawa's rival, was endorsed as head of the 109-member faction, the largest within the LDP.

Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the LDP and head of the faction, resigned from parliament in October for his role in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, triggering a power struggle.

The Hata faction will comprise the breakway group's 37 members, all from the House of Representatives, the sources said.

Ex-Cabinet Member Abe To Retire From Politics

OW0512113592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hakodate, Hokkaido Pref., Dec. 5 KYODO—Fumio Abe, a former cabinet member on trial on bribery charges, will not run in the next general elections and retire from the politics, his supporters said Saturday.

Abe's retirement was decided at an executive meeting of his supporters.

The former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies was arrested on January 13 on suspicion of accepting 90 million yen from an executive of Kyowa Co., a now-bankrupt steel-frame maker, on seven occasions from August 1989 through January 1990.

Upon his arrest, Abe left the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the party faction led by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. However, Abe has retained his seat in the House of Representatives despite strong public criticism.

Prosecutors Review Documents on Takeshita Meeting

OW0512045992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0415 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 5 KYODO—The office of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita paid for two meetings with the central figure in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin mob-and-money scandal, informed sources said Saturday.

They said Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., and Takeshita met at a Tokyo hotel and a posh Japanese restaurant in Ginza during October 1987.

Public prosecutors have apparently confiscated the office documentation on these meetings as part of their investigation into the scandal over mob ties, money and politicians.

In a deposition read by prosecutors in early November at the Tokyo District Court, Watanabe said he had talks with Takeshita, and disgraced political kingmaker Shin Kanemaru, who is the former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and Ichiro Ozawa, former party secretary general. He said they discussed ways to tackle a rightist group's harassment campaign against Takeshita.

Watanabe also disclosed in the deposition that when he next met Takeshita at a high-class Tokyo restaurant the newly elected party president thanked him for his help in stopping the harassment.

Takeshita, however, contradicted Watanabe's remarks when he testified to the Diet last month. He said he bumped into Watanabe when he went to the hotel for a separate function with a party legislator. Takeshita also said that when he met Watanabe again, it was also by chance. But on Friday he rectified his sworn Diet testimony to the House of Representatives Budget Committee, admittng having gone to the restaurant for a regular meeting with his supporters—and indicating the possibility of having met with Watanabe there.

The House of Councillors Budget Committee is scheduled to summon Takeshita on Monday for further questioning about his involvement in the scandal. Takeshita's office told KYODO News Service that it did not know who booked and who paid for these controversial meetings with Watanabe. But it promised to look into the matter.

Watanabe is now on trial for aggravated breach of tust over huge financial losses at the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin trucking company from illegal loans and loan guarantees.

Takeshita Denies Gangster Role in LDP Election

OW0712041492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0358 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita reiterated his assertion Monday that his 1987 election as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had nothing to do with gangsters intervening to halt a smear campaign against him by a rightist group.

Takeshita said it is his duty to prove to the world that no mobsters were involved in inaugurating the Japanese Government, suggesting that he has no intention of complying with opposition demands for his resignation from the Diet to take responsibility for the scandal.

Takeshita went back on one part of his earlier testimony at the House of Representatives, however, and acknowledged the possibility of his office arranging and paying expenses for two meetings with Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., at a Tokyo hotel and a Japanese restaurant before and after his election as LDP chief.

Takeshita was testifying about his alleged involvement in the scandal under oath at the budget committee of the House of Councillors following testimony he gave November 26 to the corresponding panel of the House of Representatives.

In a deposition read by prosecutors at the Tokyo district court in early November, Watanabe was quoted as saying Shin Kanemaru, fallen LDP kingpin, asked Susumu Ishii, the late leader of Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, through him in September 1987 to help stop the right-wing group's harassment of Takeshita.

At that time Takeshita was seeking the LDP presidency, which carries with it the premiership because of the LDP's dominance in the Diet.

According to Watanabe's deposition, Takeshita met him at the Tokyo Prince Hotel on the night of December 5, 1987, the day before Takeshita visited the home of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

Takeshita visited Tanaka's home to meet a condition set by the rightists—conveyed by Watanabe to the Takeshita side—for suspending their campaign against him.

When Takeshita went to Tanaka's house he was not even allowed through the gate, however. The rightists regarded Takeshita as being disloyal to Tanaka, his political mentor and founder of the LDP's largest faction, which had been split when Takeshita formed his own faction in July 1987.

Kanemaru and Ichiro Ozawa, former LDP secretary general, were also present at the meeting, according to Watanabe's statements to prosecutors.

Watanabe was also quoted as saying he had talks with Takeshita at Kitcho, an exclusive Japanese restaurant in Tokyo's Ginza, on December 29 of that year.

At those talks, Watanabe told prosecutors, Takeshita expressed his deep gratitude for Watanabe's role in stopping the rightists' street harassment campaign.

In testimony to the lower house budget committee, Takeshita denied visiting the restaurant.

On the December 5 hotel meeting with Watanabe, Takeshita also told the lower house panel that his secretary told him Watanabe would be in an upstairs room and suggested he drop in and say hello while he was attending a fund-raising party held in another part of the hotel.

Asked at Monday's hearing about media reports that Takeshita's office arranged and paid for the two meetings with Watanabe, Takeshita said he could not confirm whether such reports were true, but said he thinks it is possible.

On reports claiming that his late secretary, Ihei Aoki, was involved in stopping the rightist street campaign, he said he had never discussed with Aoki ways of halting the rightists' activities.

Testifying under oath at a hospital in Odawara on November 27, Kanemaru told members of the lower house panel that Aoki, who committed suicide in 1989, and Hiroshi Nakao, a former LDP Diet member who died this summer, might have arranged to ask for Ishii's help to stop the rightists' harassment, in which they drove loudspeaker vans around the Diet blaring ironic praise of Takeshita.

Kanemaru quit the Diet and retired from politics in October amid public criticism after his summary prosecution for accepting 500 million yen in illegal political donations from Watanabe.

Watanabe is on trial for aggravated breach of trust concerning loans and loan guarantees by the now-defunct trucking firm. Prosecutors in his trial also read out a deposition on November 5 by the head of the rightist group naming seven senior LDP members as trying to halt the harassment.

Defends Late Aide Aoki's Role

OW0712095692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0828 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, attempting to quash a scandal that is threatening his political life, denied Monday that his late aide played a major role in silencing a right-wing group's 1987 smear campaign against him.

"I believe he (Ihei Aoki), who knew well my philosophy of life, did not poke his nose into maneuvers of that sort," Takeshita said in sworn testimony before the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Takeshita also reiterated that he knew nothing of gangsters intervening during his 1987 bid for the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to suppress rightists who were cruising the streets of Tokyo in sound trucks, blaring ironic praise of him.

Winning the party presidency enabled Takeshita to become prime minister.

The claims about Aoki's role have been circulating since former LDP heavyweight Shin Kanemaru said in late November that Aoki and the late Hiroshi Nakao, an LDP member of the lower house, decided to enlist the help of Susumu Ishii, the late leader of Inagawa-kai crime syndicate, in quelling the anti-Takeshita campaign.

Kanemaru made the remarks during testimony at his hospital bedside on his alleged role in the scandal. He was questioned at the Odawara municipal hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, on November 27, the day after Takeshita gave the first testimony under oath at the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives.

According to a prosecution deposition, Kanemaru asked for Ishii's help through Hiroyasu Watanabe, the dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct express parcel delivery firm at the center of the scandal that is rocking the governing party.

The harassment campaign by the right-wing group Nihon Kominto (Emperor's Subjects Party of Japan) was at the time threatening to upset Takeshita's bid for the LDP presidency, a post which—given the party's virtual stranglehold in the Diet since 1955—automatically carries with it the prime ministership.

Saying it is his duty to prove to the world that no mobsters were involved in inaugurating the Japanese Government, the ex-premier suggested that he has no intention of bowing to pressure from the opposition camp to quit the Diet so as to take overall responsibility for the affair.

On his earlier remarks that he did not know that the mobsters played a role in stopping the right-wing campaign until after December 1988, the 68-year-old Takeshita said, "I sensed it when Mr. Kanemaru told me he had met (Ishii)."

He also again denied being involved in enlisting the help of Ishii in silencing the harassment. But he acknowledged the possibility that his office may have arranged and foot the bill for two meetings with Watanabe at a hotel and a restaurant in Tokyo before and after then-prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone named him as his successor.

Takeshita had earlier said in sworn testimony to the lower house panel that Watanabe proposed in their meeting at a hotel on October 5, 1987 that he should visit the home of ex-Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka.

He had also said he visited Tanaka's home the following day of his own volition, though he had the impression that the visit might have been a condition for stopping the harassment campaign.

Concerning the background of Kominto's street campaign, Takeshita told the upper house panel, "Given the right to freedom of speech, I was not in a position to pry deep into the affair. But I had nothing to be afraid of."

The right-wing group, based in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, is said to have staged the campaign against Takeshita for what it saw as his disloyalty in usurping the leadership of the LDP's largest faction, headed by Tanaka.

When Takeshita visited Tanaka's house, however, he was turned away at the gate.

In a comment apparently intended as a denial of claims that he had close ties with Watanabe, Takeshita also spoke of their meeting on October 5, 1987 as accidental.

Asked about media reports that his office arranged and paid for the two meetings with Watanabe, Takeshita said he could not confirm whether such reports were true but that he thinks it is possible.

As with his testimony to the lower house panel, television stations showed only still pictures after questioning began in Monday's session, in accordance with the Diet Testimony Law, though they carried a live sound broadcast of the session.

Kanemaru was forced to retire from politics in October due to public outrage about his receipt of 500 million yen in illegal political contributions from Watanabe in 1990, in violation of the Political Funds Control Law. The law bars politicians from accepting more than 1.5 million yen from any individual or corporation in a year.

Watanabe is currently on trial on a charge of aggravated breach of trust that damaged Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin through illegal loans and loan guarantees.

Opposition Decides To Ask Takeshita To Resign

OW0712144592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Three opposition parties decided Monday to jointly submit a motion seeking the resignation from the Diet of ex-Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on Tuesday on unabated allegations of his ties with mobsters, officials of the parties said.

The Social Democratic Party, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party made the decision at a meeting of their Diet affairs committee chairmen after Takeshita's sworn testimony in the Diet earlier Monday on his alleged role in a huge money-and-mobster scandal, the officials said.

The opposition argued that Takeshita's testimony aroused further suspicion that mobsters played a pivotal role in 1987 in quelling a rightist group's smear campaign against Takeshita, who was at the time vying for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) presidency and the premiership, they said.

The public also wants Takeshita's departure from politics, the opposition parties' officials said.

The parties are reportedly scheduled to submit the motion to the House of Representatives Tuesday morning.

The three opposition parties hope to gain support from the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) as well, the officials said.

Takeshita, testifying under oath for the second time, denied allegations that his late secretary played a large part in enlisting the help of a gangland boss in halting the harassment campaign against him.

Dismissing any role in the scandal, Takeshita again expressed his desire to stay on as a Diet member.

To further probe the scandal and win back the public trust in politics, the opposition parties are also considering jointly submitting to the lower house a motion calling for the unraveling of the scandal, the parties' officials said.

The three-party alliance is also poised to present to the House of Councillors a motion aimed at restoring public trust, the officials said.

In reaction to the moves by the opposition, the LDP intends to maintain its support of Takeshita, LDP officials said.

Meanwhile, the LDP proposed extending the current extraordinary Diet session for two days until Thursday to get a government-proposed supplementary budget bill passed through the upper house, the officials said.

The term of the 40-day extra Diet session is set to expire on Tuesday, with the extra budget that cleared the lower chamber last Tuesday still under deliberation in the upper house budget committee.

Masakuni Murakami, chairman of the LDP Diet Affairs Committee in the upper house, told a meeting of government and LDP leaders a two-day extension of the Diet session will be sufficient to enact the extra budget, a key pillar of boosting the sluggish economy.

The extension of the Diet session will be discussed Tuesday morning at a directors' meeting of the lower house steering committee, Diet officials said.

Finance Minister Hails Raid on Speculator Group

OW0712040192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday raids carried out the same day by a newly established securities watchdog in connection with suspected stock price manipulation mark a step toward creating a fairer market.

Hata told reporters the move marks "a step forward to establishing fairness in the securities market, a goal originally envisaged by the securities watchdog when it was formed."

On the Monday morning, officials from the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission searched Teishin Fudo, a medium-scale Tokyo real estate firm suspected of artificially boosting the stock price of Nihon Unisys Ltd.

They also raided the premises of Sumitomo Fudosan Finance Co., a finance company affiliated with Sumitomo Realty and Development Co. The finance company is believed to have funded the suspected stock price manipulation.

Nihon Unisys, listed on the major section of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, is a computer sales company jointly set up by Unisys Corp. of the United States and the Japanese trading house Mitsui and Co.

The raid is the first such move by the commission since it was established in July to prevent a repeat of a series of stock market scandals that rocked Japan last year.

Many ministry officials gave high marks to the fledgling commission with one official saying, "the agency has caught a big fish only five months after its creation."

None of the officials at the ministry' securities bureau had any prior knowledge about the raids, showing the independence of the commission from the ministry, officials said.

"We were notified of the move only at 9:30 A.M. this morning. I knew about it only from the newspapers," a bureau official said.

North Korea

Spokesman Sets 15 Dec Deadline for Suspension of Exercises

SK0412231692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2244 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—An Pyong-su, spokesman of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, today sent a telephone message to Kong No-myong, spokesman of the delegation of the South side, clarifying the North's stand toward the question of opening the ninth inter-Korean high-level talks slated for December 21.

He recalled that the South side manoeuvred to tightly close the door to the dialogue between the North and the South by resuming the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, though our side strongly urged it time and again to withdraw the agreement on the resumption of the war game and proclaim it at home and abroad by the end of November.

If the South side has the least intention to solve the nation's internal problems by the efforts of both sides and implement the documents of North-South agreement which have been effectuated with much efforts, it must give up the anti-national, anti-dialogue acts aimed at attaining a sinister purpose in collusion with outside forces and take a bold measure of revoking the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" nuclear war rehearsal, the message urged.

Considering it necessary to give the South side another opportunity to make a bold decision, we hope that the South side will take a measure for revoking the decision on the resumption of the "Team Spirit" by December 15, the first anniversary of the adoption of the North-South agreement, so that the ninth inter-Korean high-level talks may open on the designated date, the message said.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Cancellation

SK0712074092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0526 GMT 7 Dec 92

["Decision To Resume 'Team Spirit' Must Be Withdrawn Unconditionally"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities must ponder over the matter and take a step to call off the war gamble by the 15th of December as demanded by the North and effect a policy switchover to solving the peace and reunification problem of the country through reconciliation and unity with fellow countrymen from the independent point of view of the nation.

The United States must discard the anachronistic aggressive designs on Korea and take a step to cancel the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises and withdraw its occupation forces from South Korea.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst says this in a commentary today, which reads in part:

We have urged the United States and the South Korean authorities to withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" in any form and announce it at home and abroad by the end of November. The United States and the South Korean authorities failing to accept it, we recently gave them leeway, urging them to withdraw the decision before the 15th of December.

The South Korean authorities, however, seeing eye to eye with the United States, ignore our warning and demand and show no sign of withdrawing the decision.

Now the United States and the South Korean authorities are trying to justify their decision with a voluble talk about fictitious "suspicion of nuclear development by the North." This is an absolute boloney.

The South Korean authorities contend that they have no other choice but to resume the "Team Spirit" war gamble because nuclear inspection has not been realized between the North and the South. It is the South Korean authorities themselves who are obstructing the North-South nuclear inspection in question.

It is indeed like a thief crying "stop thief!" for them to raise a hue and cry over the fictitious "nuclear threat from the North" while keeping the U.S. nuclear weapons in hiding in their areas and to blame and take issue with the North for the delay of nuclear inspection while opposing a total nuclear inspection.

If they refuse to withdraw but finally resume the planned "Team Spirit," North-South joint committees cannot meet in session in December, either, and the North-South high-level talks itself expected to be held in late December would be in jeopardy.

The fate of the inter-Korean dialogue and the North-South agreement depend entirely on how they behave hereafter.

Delegation Vows Cooperation With IAEA Inspections

SK0612233992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2215 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The Board of Governors meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] was held from 3 to 4 December in Vienna, Austria. Delegations of the 35 member countries of the Board of Governors and some 40 member countries of the agency, including our country, participated in the meeting.

The secretary general of the IAEA made a report. In the report, he said that in accordance with the safeguards agreement which was effectuated on 9 April, 1992, after receiving the initial report submitted by the DPRK, the secretariat carried out inspections on four occasions to verify the completeness and accuracy of the report.

He talked about our side's position, which was that we will show additional facilities, even though they were not reported to the IAEA, to the officials of the agency if they request it. He continued that upon the invitation of the DPRK, we authorized visits to two places. According to the safeguards accord concluded with the DPRK, I am informing all of you of the fact that the inspection plan is being implemented to verify the completeness of the initial report.

We believe that there will be another inspection in the near future.

Regardless of the items contained in the list of the initial report submitted to the IAEA, we expect that we will constantly send IAEA officials to visit other DPRK sites.

After the report, the delegation chiefs from various countries spoke.

The chief of our country's delegation said: As it is clearly noted in the IAEA General Director's report, after we signed the nuclear safeguard agreement and approved it, we have sincerely implemented the duty pursuant to the nuclear safeguard agreement. As everyone knows, we submitted to the IAEA an initial report on nuclear materials and a blueprint of nuclear facilities in a timely manner. We have already received irregular inspections [pichonggi sachal] four times. Whenever we received the IAEA's inspections, we have opened all nuclear materials and nuclear facilities to the inspection team members. We have provided every convenience and every support for the inspection team members to smoothly implement their duty. The IAEA's inspections of our facilities pursuant to the nuclear safeguard agreement have been normally conducted through cooperation between us and the IAEA. We will sincerely implement our duty required by the nuclear safeguard agreement in the future. We will properly help the IAEA inspection team members to successfully inspect our facilities.

Meanwhile, delegates from various countries said they congratulated the DPRK for smoothly implementing the nuclear safeguard agreement. They added that they expect that such cooperation will continue.

KCNA Reports Results

SK0712110192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 7 Dec 92

["Korea Will Faithfully Implement Its Duty to Nuclear Safeguards Accord"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The December board meeting of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was held in Vienna, Austria over December 3-4.

The IAEA general director in his report to the meeting said that since an initial report presented by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea according to the nuclear safeguards accord effectuated on April 9, 1992 was accepted the secretariat made inspection on four occasions to verify the completeness and correctness of the report. Referring to the DPRK's stand to show to IAEA official persons any facility if the IAEA demands, though it was not additionally declared to the IAEA, he said that visit to two places had been realised at the invitation of the DPRK. The inspection program to verify the completeness of the initial report presented by Korea is being implemented and next inspection is expected before long, he pointed out, adding:

It is planned to continue the work of sending IAEA official persons to visit other places which are not involved in the minute description presented to the IAEA.

The head of the DPRK delegation said in his speech that the DPRK opened all nuclear substances and nuclear facilities to the IAEA inspection teams each time and offered all convenience and help to their successful fulfilment of duty.

The IAEA inspection according to the nuclear safeguards accord is being normally carried on by cooperation between Korea and the IAEA, he said, stressing: We will faithfully implement our duty to the nuclear safeguards accord in the future, too. Delegates of different countries in speeches hailed the DPRK's implementation of the nuclear safeguards accord and expressed a hope that such cooperation would continue.

Pyongyang Radio Reports South Flies Helicopter Inside DMZ

SK0512010992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0032 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The South Korean puppets have perpetrated a military provocation of bringing an armed helicopter inside the DMZ on the eastern section of the frontline.

On 4 December, the South Korean puppets perpetrated a grave military provocation of illegally infiltrating an armed helicopter inside the DMZ on the eastern section of the frontline, south of Ipo-ri, Kumgang County, Kangwon Province. The armed helicopter, which flew over the DMZ from Hyon-ri, Inje County, Kangwon Province, South Korea that day, landed on an area 1,000 meters south of Military Demarcation Line Marker No. 1090 at around 1500 [0600 GMT].

Openly bringing an armed helicopter in broad daylight is a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement and a deliberate provocation maneuver to artificially aggravate the situation inside the DMZ.

The puppet South Korean military brass hats recently prowled about the frontline, made bellicose remarks, fiercely conducted an emergency attack operation exercise aimed at the northern half of the Republic after mobilizing airplanes, tanks, cannon, armored carriers, and numerous puppet troops, and even brought an armed helicopter into the DMZ. We cannot help but consider this to be very grave.

The South Korean puppets must squarely see the grave consequences that their criminal acts may bring and must not run wild.

WPK Alternate Central Committee Member Kim Pong-ul Dies

SK0512154692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Comrade Kim Pong-ul, general of the Korean People's Army, alternate member of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] and deputy to the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, passed away to our regret at the age of 61 due to a heart attack at 2110 on 4 December 1992.

Comrade Kim Pong-ul waged a devoted struggle, upholding our party's leadership, to accelerate the country's socialist construction and to strengthen its defense capability. He devoted himself to defending and implementing our party's line and policies and to defending the gains of the revolution. He did this while serving in the important posts of party and administrative organizations as well as the armed forces for many years.

Comrade Kim Pong-ul remained endlessly loyal to the party and the leader until the last moment of his life and worked energetically to carry out the revolutionary task entrusted to him.

Although Comrade Kim Pong-ul has passed away, his achievements for our party and revolutionary cause will remain for a long time.

[dated] 4 December 1992

[signed] WPK Central Committee, the WPK Central Military

Commission.

KCNA Reviews 5 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0512081492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Thai King Phumiphon Adunyadet on his 65th birthday.

South Korean people expressed reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song, highly praising his glorious and brilliant revolutionary history, says NODONG SINMUN.

It reports that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical work "On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building" was widely disseminated and studied abroad, evoking a great response.

According to papers, Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the builders who are introducing railways to the Wolbong Coal mine and their helpers and to the party members and other employees of the literary and art publishing house and its related units.

Given in the press is an account of a seminar on the chuche-oriented idea of literature and art regarding "On Dance Art", a classical work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN conveys what foreign visitors said highly praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as the distinguished great man who is glorifying the era of independence.

A message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the 30th congress of the Communist Party of Canada is printed in the paper.

Dailies give an account of a meeting of chairmen of primary organizations of the League of Socialist Working Youth of the companies of the Korean People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN carries a political essay stressing that to go along the road of revolution to the end, following the great leader and party only with one mind in and circumstances and conditions is the revolutionary will of the Korean intellectuals.

Econews of dailies includes a report that many modern ships are being built at the Hambuk Shipbuilding Complex.

Seen in the press is a telephone message sent by the spokesman for the North side's delegation to his counterpart of the South side to the North-South high-level talks regarding the opening of the ninth high-level talks.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the newly-appointed DPRK ambassador presented his credentials to the president of Seychelles and the leader of the Maltese Labour Party received the Korean ambassador to his country.

Given in papers is an account of the closing of the concert which had opened on the occasion of the 75th birthday of Mr. Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon and a prominent composer.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets committed provocative air and ground military exercises against the North and carries an information of the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the recent scheme of the South Korean authorities to resume the "Team Spirit" war exercises in conspiracy with the United States, and world public reaction to it.

The paper carries the first installment of "Brilliant Youth," notes of Pak Song-hui, a delegate of the "National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) of South Korea who visited the northern half of Korea in August last year and is now active at the joint secretariat of the "Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification" (Pomchonghangnyon).

Press commentaries hit out at Kim Yong-sam, "presidential candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party" of South Korea for trying to lay the blame for the delay of nuclear inspection between the North and the South at the North's door.

NODONG SINMUN carries a statement of the "Arab solidarity committee of political parties and front for supporting South Korean people's struggle" denouncing the South Korean authorities' fabrication of another anti-DPRK false case, "the case of the WPK in South Korea."

Foreign news columns of the paper includes reports that the chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation expressed the principled stand on Quds, the Jordanian King referred to the Middle East peace issue, the Janata Party of India demanded the United States to end the blockade against Cuba.

The paper conveys foreign public voices flailing Japan's plutonium transport.

Papers observe the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Barbados and the national day of the Kingdom of Thailand.

NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article analyses the financial economic crisis of the United States.

7 Dec NODONG SINMUN Review

SK0712074692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0552 GMT 7 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today frontpages a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the national day of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire [Ivory Coast].

The daily deals with the dissemination and study of "On the Fundamental Questions of Revolutionary Party Building", an immortal classical work of the dear leder Comrade Kim Chong-il, in different countries.

Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to the sections and army unit which have fully displayed the beautiful traditional traits of unity between the Army and the people, says the paper.

It carries a signed article stressing that the Korean People's Army [KPA], loyal to the party and the leader, is an invincible armed forces.

The participants in the meeting of chairmen of primary organizations of the league of socialist working youth of KPA companies marched through main streets of the capital city of Pyongyang amid warm welcome of more than 100,000 citizens, says the paper.

It conveys that people of different strata said upon hearing the news that director of the Songyo District, Pyongyan, publication distribution centre Sin Chong-ho, a Japanese woman, and student of the automation engineering department of Pyongyang University of mechanical engineering Kim Kwon-hwi, a South Korean defector, sent letters to Comrade Kim Chong-il. [sentence as received]

Econews of the paper includes reports that yearly assignments have been fulfilled ahead of schedule in several factories.

According to the daily, the general secretary of the Communist Party of Portugal met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets committed another provocative joint air war rehearsal against the North, reports the paper.

It edits articles lashing out at the moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities not to withdraw their decision to resume the "Team Spirit" nuclear war game, and the South Korean authorities' suppression of forces opposed to their reassumption of office and of students in particular.

According to the paper, an all-people signature campaign has been launched in South Korea in demand of the punishment of the U.S. Army murderer and foreign media called for the removal of the concrete wall built by the South Korean authorities.

It carries the concluding part of notes of Pak Song-hui, a delegate of the national council of student representatives of South Korea, who visited Pyongyang in summer last year.

Conveyed in it are voices of foreigners praising the superiority of Korean-style socialism.

The head of the DPRK delegation made a speech at the December meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, reports the daily.

It informs the readers that a meeting was held in Pyongyang to mark the 75th day of the independence of Finland and the national holiday was commemorated in Thailand.

It introduces elephants of Cote d'Ivoire.

World news of the paper includes reports that the Sultan of Oman called upon the young people to take active part in the building of economy, the president of Chile paid a visit to Malaysia, the Moldavian president signed a decree on measures of preventing the state ownership from being converted illegally into private ownership, the speaker of the Iranian National Assembly ruled out possibility of any compromise with the United States and the first deputy prime minister of Uganda referred to the significance of socialism.

An agreement on trade of agricultural produce was reached between the United States and the EC, but their contradictions remain unsolved, says the paper.

NODONG SINMUN Calls South Authorities 'Nuclear Maniacs'

SK0612091792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 6 Dec 92

["'Nuclear Mushrooms' Which Sprouted Under 'Nuclear Umbrella'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 6 (KCNA)—The true color of the South Korean authorities as nuclear maniacs was exposed to the world when the nuclear arms development in South Korea was brought into the open by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front some time ago, NODONG SINMUN today says, urging the South Korean authorities to discontinue the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear war moves.

It is a deception to mislead public opinion at home and abroad and cover up the nuclear armament of South Korea that the United States declared it had withdrawn all its nuclear weapons from South Korea and the chief executive of South Korea declared the "absence of nuclear weapons" and signed the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation, the author of the paper says, and continues:

As exposed this time, there are U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea and development of nuclear weapons and nuclear armament are promoted by South Korea itself. This means that "nuclear mushrooms" have sprouted under the "nuclear umbrella".

It is brazen of the United States and the South Korean authorities to clamour about "suspicion of nuclear development" by the North after deploying nuclear weapons, while accelerating nuclear development.

This is a shameless act of a thief crying "stop thief".

We do not possess nuclear weapons nor have the will and capacity to develop them.

In raising outcries at the instigation of the United States, the South Korean rulers pursue the criminal aim of justifying the U.S. policy of converting South Korea into a nuclear base, their own moves for nuclear armament, and the nuclear war scheme against the North hastened by the U.S. and South Korea and further hastening them in league with the United States.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities provoked a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, they themselves could not be safe. The South Korean authorities should think over the matter and discontinue the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear war scheme, choose to implement the joint declaration on denuclearisation and, for the present, should take a step of withdrawing the plan to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a nuclear war rehearsal, they adopted with the United States.

NODONG SINMUN Notes Army's 'Boundless Loyalty' to Kim Chong-il

SK0712112992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 7 Dec 92

["Invincible is Our Party With Faithful People's Army Soldiers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article titled "Invincible is Our Party With People's Army Soldiers Faithful to It".

The entire officers and men of the Korean People's Army [KPA] are now creditably discharging their mission and duty as the army of the party, the revolution and the people, loyal to Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, the article says, and goes on:

The infinite loyalty of the KPA to the party and the leader that was cultivated in the forest of Mt. Paektu and has been steadfastly inherited is now reaching the highest level in holding Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem as its supreme commander.

The boundless loyalty is a great pride in having Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and living and struggling as his revolutionary soldier. It is also an unswerving will to go through any grave tempest, united in one mind around the party and the leader, and the confidence and optimism that they can defeat any aggressors and surely win as long as they are guided by the supreme commander.

The KPA is holding high from the bottom of its heart the slogan "We Serve the Supreme Commander!" Reflected in the slogan is the favorite proverb of the KPA officers and men in their struggle and life, the proverb of those willing to devote their whole life for the supreme commander, always mindful of their honor and pride as his revolutionary soldier. It is for this that the ranks of the faithful soldiers who defend the party and the leader with arms in hand, in military uniform of revolution are growing stronger.

The KPA has become a unit of those united in one mind around the party and the leader and an integrated whole of pure ideology and purpose of those thinking and acting unanimously according to the idea, intention, orders and instructions of the supreme commander.

To trust in and follow the respected supreme commander and always share the same destiny with him, come what may—this is the unshakable will of the KPA officers and men.

The article further says:

With such reliable Armed Forces as the KPA, our people are steadfastly defending our-style socialism and the gains of revolution, standing face to face with a formidable enemy. And with a one-match-for-a-hundred Army our party has triumphantly pushed ahead with the revolutionary cause of chuche, adhering to the revolutionary principle in face of any adversities.

It is a great pride of our party and the people to have the People's Army unfailingly loyal to the party and the leader.

NODONG SINMUM Assesses Revolutionary Tradition in Socialism

SK0712090592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0012 GMT 6 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 6 December special article: "The Revolutionary Tradition is a Mighty Weapon in Accomplishing the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] On 5 December, 1991, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong- il published a classic work "Let Us Brilliantly Inherit and Develop the Chuche Revolutionary Tradition." In his work, the essence and importance of the work of resolutely safeguarding, adhering to, inheriting, and developing our party's revolutionary tradition and all principled problems in the embodiment of the chuche revolutionary tradition have been extensively elucidated based on the historical experiences and realities of our times.

This work is an important guideline for the revolutionary parties and the people that are determined to endlessly consummate the socialist cause by adhering to the revolutionary tradition accomplished by the leader. This is also a great ideological and theoretical achievement attained by our party.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The revolutionary cause of the popular masses for the complete realization of independence with the socialist and communist construction can be victoriously advanced and brilliantly consummated only through the process of adhering to, embodying, inheriting, and developing the revolutionary tradition. The revolutionary tradition is the historic root of the revolution. This tradition is a bloodline connecting different generations into one in the whole course of carrying out the revolution.

Only when we properly adhere to, inherit, and develop the revolutionary tradition can we advance the revolution along the straight road the leader has elucidated. We can also consummate the socialist cause to the end by successfully overcoming various difficulties and trials.

The socialist ruling parties collapsed in a single morning in some countries and the socialist gains—which preceding generations and revolutionary predecessors had attained at the cost of their blood—were lost due to the failure of adhering to and inheriting the revolutionary tradition accomplished the leader. These international realities clearly show how important it is to adhere to, inherit, and develop the revolutionary tradition.

The socialism of our own style is being constantly and victoriously advanced today, while perfectly and firmly displaying its superiority and indomitable vitality even under the imperialists' and various reactionaries' brutal subversive activities. This is totally the case because there is a revolutionary leadership of our party which brilliantly inherits and develops the chuche revolutionary tradition by defining it as a far-reaching cornerstone of our revolution.

The work of adhering to, inheriting, and developing the revolutionary tradition is being carried out in our country at the highest level under the leadership of the party, which is endlessly faithful to the leader's cause.

From the beginning, our party has assumed a firm position and view of the chuche revolutionary tradition. It has purely adhered to the tradition and has comprehensively inherited and developed it throughout scores of years. In the course of this, our party has attained the immortal achievements and rich struggling experiences. Therefore, its achievements and experiences are truly valuable.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's firm determination and resolute will are to consistently adhere to the chuche revolutionary tradition accomplished by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and to consummate the popular mass-centered socialist cause of our own style to the end.

We, being fully aware of the party's intent, should continue to carry out the work of safeguarding, adhering to, inheriting, and developing the chuche revolutionary tradition. As a result, we should safeguard and defend our revolution. We should also display forever the honor and dignity of the chuche fatherland as well as the socialist might of our own style.

Brilliantly glorifying the chuche revolutionary tradition is, first of all, a rewarding work to resolutely safeguard and defend the great chuche idea and to consistently adhere to the chuche-oriented position in all sectors of the revolution and construction.

The chuche idea created by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the only guiding idea of our revolution. Its justification and greatness have been completely proved in a revolutionary practice in our times. Its driving force has been also increasing with each passing day.

Apart from the great chuche idea, we cannot talk about the outstanding establishment of the socialism of our own style on this Earth which is independent of politics, self-reliant in the economy, and self-reliant in defense. Apart from it, we cannot even think of the continuous advance of our revolution under the difficult circumstances of today.

Even today or in the future, if we want to advance the revolution along the victorious road by adhering forever to the honor and dignity of the nation, we should constantly hold aloft the banner of the chuche idea. For this end, we should glorify forever our party's revolutionary tradition. Our party's revolutionary tradition is the just tradition of establishing chuche.

Under the banner of the great chuche idea, we have newly pioneered the path of the revolution and have creatively carried out the socialist revolution and construction in conformity with the demands of our people and with the actual situations of our country. In the course of this struggle, we have constantly prepared, developed, and enriched the revolutionary tradition. What is reflected in this is the essential characteristics of our party's revolutionary tradition, its greatness, and the source of its indomitable might.

There are no minor elements—which have nothing to do with chuche—in our party's revolutionary party. Everything in our party's revolutionary tradition has been established in a struggle for adhering to and embodying the chuche idea.

Because of this, the work of adhering to and glorifying our party's revolutionary tradition becomes a glorious one that adheres to the great chuche idea, and remolds all sectors in the revolution and construction in conformity with the demands of the chuche idea.

The imperialists' various bourgeois and corrupt ways of life can never penetrate into our society, just as they failed to do so in the past, when all of our party members and working people are firmly armed with our party's revolutionary tradition and when they resolutely safeguard and defend it. In addition, the chuche-oriented position will be firmly adhered to in all sectors in the socialist construction.

Glorifying our party's revolutionary tradition is a sacred work to strongly adhere to and consolidate the single-hearted mind of our revolutionary ranks, who are firmly united as one around the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The most consolidated cohesion and unity of the entire party and the entire society have been established today in our country. The cohesion and unity of our party and our revolutionary ranks are the great ones that uphold the outstanding leader, a great man of many great men, as a center of the cohesion and leadership. In addition, their cohesion and unity are indomitable, based on the firm faith and will of all people who are to faithfully and single-heartedly uphold their party and leader under any difficult circumstances.

With the might of the single-hearted unity which has never existed before in history, all party members and working people should continue to positively struggle to glorify our party's revolutionary tradition in order to consummate the socialism of our own style to the end. This is because our party's revolutionary tradition is the tradition of cohesion and unity.

From the first day when he pioneered the road of the revolution, the respected and beloved leader has regarded the revolutionary ranks' cohesion and unity as basic elements determining the fate of the revolution. He has made all efforts for its realization. With the might of the cohesion and unity, he has also led us to victory in our revolution.

Because of this, the proud tradition of cohesion and unity with the great leader as their axis have been prepared. In addition, their proud tradition based on the leader's revolutionary idea and on the revolutionary obligation have been saved.

The great cohesion and unity prepared by the respected and beloved leader have been further consolidated as firm as rock in the struggle of imbuing the entire party and the whole society with the chuche idea and in the reality of [word indistinct] which has never existed in history.

Experiences included in the chuche revolutionary tradition are ones that have justly built the popular mass-oriented party; that have vigorously conducted the struggle against factionalism and revisionis and that have led the popular masses to thoroughly implement the class lines and mass lines. Precious experience included in the tradition is one that we should consistently adhere to in conducting struggle to achieve the cohesion and unity of our party and the revolutionary ranks and to strengthen the revolutionary chuche in every way.

We can further strengthen the might of our revolutionary ranks and endlessly consummate the socialist cause with their indomitable might when we resolutely safeguard and adhere to the chuche revolutionary tradition and when we comprehensively embody it.

Glorifying our party's revolutionary tradition is also a glorious work to fully display the superiority and the might of the socialism of our own style by highly inspiring the popular masses' revolutionary zeal and their creative positiveness.

Along with the guiding idea and theory of the revolution, the method of guiding the revolution and the method of leading the popular masses have been comprehensively elucidated in our party's revolutionary tradition. The method of leading chuche created by the respected and beloved leader is a revolutionary work method to go deep down to the popular masses and to share life and death, the sweet and the bitter with them, while giving priority to their advantage all the time. This is also a revolutionary work method that can solve all problems based on the popular masses' might and wisdom.

This work method makes functionaries serve the people. This method also makes functionaries and the people unite as one. As a result, this method makes the popular masses vigorously carry out the revolution and construction by displaying their revolutionary zeal and creativeness to the maximum, while firmly making them unite as one around the party and the leader. The might of the great chuche method of leading the popular masses has been fully demonstrated in the struggle to develop the most superior socialism of our own style.

Today, in our country, all functionaries go deep down to the popular masses to work with them by firmly giving priority to the work with people, political work. This precious fruition results from the chuche method of leading the popular masses and from the great leader-oriented method.

This reality clearly shows that we can successfully carry out any vast tasks in the socialist construction as well as constantly consolidate and develop the socialist system of our own style when we firmly adhere to the chuche revolutionary tradition created by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and glorified by our party.

The chuche revolutionary tradition is a mighty weapon to accomplish the socialist cause of our own style to the end. Our revolution is being carried out today at the higher level. We are also assigned with vast tasks. Therefore, all party members and working people should strengthen the might of our revolutionary ranks in every way and should effect a new upsurge in the socialist construction by continuously and thoroughly implementing ideas and theories set forth in the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's classic work.

KCNA Publishes 'Information' on Policy Toward Intellectuals

SK0712070692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0540 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—The Korean Central News Agency pulished an information "Precious Wealth Produced by Our Party's Policy Toward Intellectuals".

The problem of intellectuals decisive of the victory of the revolution and the destiny of the nation has been successfully solved in Korea, the information notes, and continues:

The number of the intellectuals in Korea has grown to 1.6 million.

The large army of intellectuals who well manage political, economic, cultural and all other sectors of the country is the greatest and most precious wealth of our country. [sentence as received]

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"...The validity and vitality of our party's unique policy toward intellectuals have been proved clearly through practice, the policy of regarding intellectuals as a component of the driving force of the revolution, constantly enhancing their role and looking after their destiny to the last in a responsible manner."

Right after the liberation when there were a few intellectuals in Korea due to the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, the respected leader President Kim Il-song allotted the rice donated by patriotic farmers to the state as fund for establishing a university. Thus, Kim Il-song University, the first university of the people, was founded in October 1946.

With Kim Il-song University as the mother body, the university of technology, the university of medicine, the teacher training college and other colleges were set up one after another to bring the number of the universities and colleges to 15 in 1949.

During the fatherland liberation war in Korea, universities and colleges were evacuated to safe places and students and teachers recalled from the front.

Thus education was brought back to normalcy at the beginning of 1951.

In the postwar period when the foundation of socialism was built, the universities founded before the war were rehabilitated on an expansion basis and new universities such as the university of construction and the university of veterinary science and animal husbandry were founded.

The number of the universities and colleges which was 19 at the end of the three-year plan period grew to 78 at the end of the five- year plan period. In 1960, 133,000 technicians and specialists were working in different domains of the national economy.

During the first seven-year plan period, the number of the universities and colleges swelled to 129 and that of the technicians and specialists to 497,000.

In 1975, Korea had an army of intellectuals one million strong. In the 1971-1980 period, the number of the institutions of higher learning grew to 170 from 129.

Under the policy of assimilating the whole society to the intelligentsia, many new universities and colleges were founded in the 1980s and 1990s and factory colleges, farmers' and fishermen's colleges were reinforced. The number of the universities and colleges which was 260 at the end of the 1980s now exceeds 280.

The number of the intellectuals in Korea is 1.6 million, or 140,000 more than the figure at the end of the 1980s. Such a large army of technicians and specialists has never been in the history of the nation.

Some 1,000 intellectuals received the titles and degrees of academician, corresponding member of the academy, professor and assistant professor, doctor and associate doctor on an annual average from the 1970s, many of them becoming doctors and associate doctors in their twenties and thirties. An increasing number of intellectuals received "Kim Il-song Prize," the title of labour hero and the honorary titles of people's scientist, people's teacher and people's artiste.

Right after the liberation, the intellectuals of Korea roused the consciousness of nation building and patriotic enthusiasm among the people as pioneers in the general ideological mobilization movement for building the nation, the emulation for increased production and the anti-illiteracy campaign. In this course, they rehabilitated as of January 1947 822 industrial establishments including the Hwanghae iron works which had been destroyed by the defeated Japanese imperialists and taught 2.3 million illiterate people how to read and write in three years or more, greatly contributing to successfully promoting the building of a new democratic Korea.

During the postwar period of the three-year plan, the intellectuals rehabilitated on an expansion basis many heavy industrial factories by introducing 17,000 technical innovation proposals and proposals of rationalizing production processes.

In the first seven-year plan period, they produced a 6,000-ton press, electric locomotives, 5,000-ton ships, large machines, precision machines and complete sets of modern plants, contributing to placing the ferrous metallurgical industry, the chemical industry, the light industry and all other sectors of the national economy on the basis of modern technology.

The scientists and technicians of Korea introduced assembly lines, automatic lines and NC lathes in the production processes of machines and equipment, extensively bred new high-yielding species and helped toward the comprehensive mechanization of agriculture.

The writers and artistes adapted immortal classical masterpieces to film, revolutionary opera, revolutionary drama and revolutionary novel and produced many works of revolutionary literature and art, bringing a great heyday of chuche art.

Kim Il-song Greets Finnish President

SK0512104092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 5 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Mauno Koivisto, president of the Republic of Finland, on the 75th anniversary of the independence of Finland.

President Kim Il-song wishes the president and people of Finland great success in the work for the prosperity of the country.

Greets Ivory Coast President

SK0712063892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 7 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings on Dec. 5 to Felix Houphouet-Boigny, president of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, on the national day of the Ivory Coast.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to develop, President Kim Il-song in his message wished the president and people of the Ivory Coast great success in the work for national unity and the country's prosperity.

New Envoy Presents Credentials to Maltese President

SK0412015192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] O Yong-nin, new ambassador of our country to Malta, presented credentials to Vincent Tabone, president of Malta, on 26 November. The ambassador delivered the greetings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim chong-il to President Vincent Tabone.

The president expressed deep thanks to the greetings and asked the ambassador to convey his sincere greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said that he will further expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Malta and the DPRK and stressed that the day of the North and the South of Korea—which have a single bloodline, language, history, and culture—will come without fail.

Communities Begin Year-End Settlement, Income Distribution

SK0212113692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 2 (KCNA)—Year-end account settlement and income distribution is under way in rural communities of Korea.

This year's farming was summed up on the Nongpho cooperative farm in Saeppyol County, North Hamgyong Province on November 30.

The cooperative farm carried out its state assignments of grain, vegetables, meat and fruits respectively at 156.1, 100.1, 103 and 100.4 percent by placing farm work on a scientific and technological basis as required by the chuche method of farming this year, the year of put-greater-efforts-into-agriculture.

Earlier, the Sojung cooperative farm in Wiwon County, South Hamgyong Province, and the Pyolha Cooperative Farm in Nusi County, Chagang Province, summed up this year's farming with due ceremonies, after overfulfilling this year's plans of grain, vegetables and meat.

NODONG SINMUN Marks 17th Anniversary of LPDR Founding

SK0212053092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0442 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang Dec. 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 17th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. A by-lined article of NODONG SINMUN says the founding of the republic on December 2, 1975 enabled the Lao people to lead a worthy life as true masters of the country and display their national dignity and honour in the international arena under the banner of independence and sovereignty.

Now the Lao people are actively struggling to further strengthen the people's democratic system won at the cost of blood and achieve development and prosperity of the country, the article says, and goes on:

The Lao Government and people, pursuing a non-aligned foreign policy, are developing friendly relations with many countries of the world aspiring after independence while resolutely fighting against the manoeuvres of the imperialists and reactionaries. The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the achievements of the Lao people in the building of a new society.

They will actively strive to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the Lao people in the future, too, under the banner of independence, peace and friendship.

They wish the Lao people great success in the future endeavors to build an independent and prosperous new society.

South Korea

U.S. Trade Negotiations Set for 8-10 Dec in Washington

SK0612015592 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJAE SINMUN in Korean 5 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The ROK and the United States will hold ROK-U.S. follow-up negotiations in Washington from 8 to 10 December on ways to improve the two countries' business environment. They will discuss pending trade issues on business activities of foreign investors who are doing business in the ROK, such as land acquisition, ways to finance their businesses, expansion of business lines for investment, the reduction of the fair transaction committee's interference, and the improvement of procedures for investment declaration and approval.

According to the Foreign Ministry on 5 December, the government plans to study the U.S. demands in a forward manner to the extent that our circumstances permit—except for financing matters—including foreign investors commercial loans or financing arrangement between their headquarters and branch offices. In the upcoming negotiations, the ROK is likely to accept most of the demands made by the United States which is asking for the expansion of the policy for land acquisition by foreign service business, additional opening of the distribution market, and the reduction of the fair transaction committee's interference.

Our side is trying to accept as many U.S. demands as we can because the upcoming ROK-U.S. negotiations are the full-dress ROK-U.S. trade negotiations held just before the Clinton administration is inaugurated and because the outcome of the negotiations are likely to be reflected on the new U.S. Administration transition team report.

Vice Premier Choe Kak-kyu Leaves Seoul for China

SK0612040292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 6 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Choe Kak-kyu, vice prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board, departed from Seoul this morning to pay an official visit to China at the invitation of Zou Jiahua, vice premier of the Chinese State Council.

He will remain in China until 11 December. During his stay, he is expected to meet Premier Li Peng, Vice Premier Zou Jiahua, and other Chinese Government leaders in Beijing. He will discuss economic exchanges and ways of stepping up cooperation between the two countries.

Russian Envoy Blames Hardliners for Missing KAL Recorder

SK0612053992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0523 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 6 (YONHAP)—Russian Ambassador to South Korea Alexandr Panov held responsible Russian hardliners for the missing of the flight data recorder [FDR] of KAL 007 shot down by the Soviets in 1983, government sources said Sunday.

They said Korean Embassy in Japan had been informed from Russian Embassy in Japan of Panov's claim that hardliners may have been behind the FDR flap. The sources said Panov's remark came last Thursday during his visit to Japan but did not mention the place where the statement had been made.

Panov's opinion appears to give rise to an assumption among government officials that President Yeltsin had not known the fact in advance.

A government official said the Russian Government had hurried to propose an international meeting for a joint investigation of the KAL incident.

"The proposal was designed to get quickly out of a diplomatic ripple," said the official, citing Russia has not yet defined the agenda in detail and the proposal came only after South Korean Amb. to Moscow Hong Sun-yong met Dec. 1 with Yuriy Petrov, chief of the Russian Presidential Administration, to seek an explanation for the missing FDR tapes.

A South Korean delegation, including Amb. Hong, will attend the meeting in Moscow on Dec. 8-9, where the United States, Japan, Russia and the International Civil Aviation Organization will also participate.

North To Accept Nuclear Inspection

SK0512004392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0024 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Vienna, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—North Korea said Friday it will accept inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regardless of the joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise, Team Spirit.

Choe chang-im, North Korean ambassador-at-large, assured the IAEA board of governors that his country will receive regular IAEA inspections and carry out its treaty obligations faithfully.

Commenting on the North Korean Foreign Ministry statement in November on Team Spirit, Choe said it was aimed only at "clarifying our basic position" on the U.S.-South Korean military exercise. Choe is here to attend the IAEA board of governors meeting.

It was reported, however, North Korea recently distributed the Foreign Ministry statement as an official document in the IAEA but withdrew it after it had run into strong reaction from Hans Blix, IAEA director general, and IAEA member nations.

On the second day of the board of governors' meeting Friday, 17 countries, including the United States, Russia, and Britain, delivered additional speeches, urging North Korea to accept unconditional inspection by the IAEA and simultaneous inspection of each other's facilities by South and North Korea.

They also warned that they would not accept any attempt to link nuclear inspection with the Team Spirit exercise.

The board of governors unanimously agreed on the need for more effective inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities. It has decided to take up the North Korean nuclear issue as a separate agenda item for the next governors' meeting, scheduled to be held in February 1993.

Government Accepts Extension of IAEA Nuclear Research Cooperation

SK0412091792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0644 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to inform the Philippine Government Dec. 11 that it accepts the general regulations of the Asia-Pacific Postal Union and the Asia-Pacific Postal Convention, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The regulations and the convention aim to boost cooperation among Asia-Pacific member countries of the Universal Postal Union through discounts or exemption of postal charges.

On Friday, the government submitted a document to the director-general of International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] accepting the extension of the regional cooperative agreement for research, development and training related to nuclear science and technology, 1987.

The agreement covers mutually cooperative projects, including research, development and training in the peaceful use of nuclear power among member countries in the region.

Prime Minister Denies DP, UPP Charges on Investigation

SK0712103692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0959 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong dismissed an opposition allegation Monday that the government is partial in its investigation into the Hyundai Business Group's monetary and manpower support for the United People's Party (UPP), saying that his government would make an utmost effort to lead a fair presidential election, a government source said.

While receiving a visit by Reps. Kim Sang-hyon and Kim Yong-pae, Supreme Council members of the Democratic Party [DP], at his office, Hyon said that it was unfair for the opposition camp to brandish the government investigation "clear political oppression", despite the apparent evidence produced.

"The basic government position is to punish every violator of the election law in accordance with the law regardless of his or her political affiliation," Hyon stressed, adding that he has already instructed pertinent government agencies to prevent any human rights abuse in the process of the investigation.

In connection with an indication that the government is partial in applying punishment against violators of the election law according to their political affiliation, the premier also said that he had instructed the government to take punitive actions against those officials who take such a double standard, the source said.

DP Minimizes Significance of National Alliance Accord

SK0412021592 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 92 p 5

[Article from "Political Scene" column]

[Text] On 2 December, the Democratic Party [DP] stressed that "the agreement on democratic reforms and on the establishment of democratic government" reached between the DP and the National Alliance (co-chairman Kwon Chong-tae), league of the dissident organizations, was a result of their joint efforts to reach an accord on their own policies. The DP is also concentrating its efforts on improving its image of moderates.

Chairman Kim Won-ki, DP's representative for negotiations, held a news conference at his office on 2 December and said: For the great harmony of all democratic forces, the two sides agreed to make efforts to reach their joint goal of the implementation of democratic reforms and the establishment of democratic government. In negotiations, they agreed on 54 items on the democratic reform policy, except on other 5 items, which include the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the ROK.

It seems that he is trying not to emphasize the agreement, saying that "this does not mean there is a policy alliance," and that "it is totally the National Alliance's business whether it supports candidate Kim Tae-chung as single candidate for all democratic forces."

Prior to attending the Kwanhun seminar, candidate Kim Tae-chung participated in the meeting to reorganize the DP's local B chapter (Chairman Pak Un-tae) at Kangdonggu in Seoul. He also participated in the "women's special meeting for women voters" held by the DP's local A chapter in Songpa, Seoul. By so doing, he is very busy with campaigns.

Chong Chu-yong Leads Rivals in Ad Spending

SK0212060692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong's United People's Party [UPP] vastly outspent its rivals on campaign advertisements in newspapers and magazines up to last month, according to statistics filed by Korea Advertising Data Co. Wednesday.

The company estimated the UPP spent 6.3 billion won (8.03 million U.S. dollars) on campaign ads—2.9 billion won in July-September, 1.35 billion won in October and 2 billion won in November.

The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], led by Kim Yong-sam, was the second biggest spender at 4.8 billion won on Kim's election bid—1 billion won in July-September, 1.59 billion won in October and 2.22 billion won in November.

In the last two months, the DLP has spent 500 million won more than the UPP on campaign ads.

Kim Tae-chung's Democratic Party [DP] has parted with just 2.94 billion won for ads—590 million won in July-September, 580 million won in October and 1.77 billion won in November.

Top among the smaller parties, Yi Chong-chan's New Korea Party has spent 200 million won.

Spending on campaign ads in the second quarter was 620 million won by the DLP, 520 million won by the UPP and 410 million won by the DP.

During October-November, newspaper ads accounted for 95.4 percent at 9.69 billion won and magazines took the rest. The DLP and DP spent 270 million and 200 million won, respectively, on magazine ads.

KDA said it has no figure for television ads as they have only just started airing, but that it estimates television and radio commercials will cost each party 200 million to 300 million won.

Production costs for TV ads are 50 million to 60 million won apiece and 1 million to 2 million won for each radio ad.

Each candidate is permitted five commercials on television and radio.

Dissidents' Alliance Sides With Democratic Party

SK0212074692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—The National Alliance for Democracy and National Unification, an umbrella organization of Korean dissident groups, announced Wednesday that it had agreed with the Democratic Party [DP] on a 54-point reform platform.

The alliance, better known as Chonguk Yonhap, said it shared the Democratic Party's recognition that joint efforts were needed to bring democratic reforms and a democratic government to Korea.

The agreement, reached after extensive discussions, includes reform of the law on assembly and demonstration, immediate implementation of local autonomy and the legalization of organizations such as Chongyojo, the National Teachers Union, and Chonnohyop, the Korean Trade Union Congress.

The two sides failed to agree on the future of the Agency for National Security Planning, the defense security command, U.S. troops in South Korea, and the National Security Law. They decided to hold further discussions after the Dec. 18 presidential election.

Rep. Kim Won-ki, head of the DP negotiating team, said the two sides hadn't reached any agreement on joint campaigning for DP presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung.

"Though we want them to support us, we didn't reach any agreement on campaigning," he said, adding that it was up to the alliance whether or not to support Kim as a representative of the nation's democratic forces.

Employee Accuses Hyundai of Secretly Funding UPP

SK0512083792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—A disgruntled employee of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. called a 1:30 a.m. news conference in a church Saturday to accuse her employers of secretly donating 35 billion won to the United People's Party [UPP]. UPP presidential candidate Chong Chu-yong is the founder of the Hyundai group.

Chong Yun-ok, 27, of the accounts department, said 21 billion won had been handed to the party at the instructions of company President Choe Su-il, and 14 billion won was in a safe at the Sinhan Bank's Chongno branch.

"My company withdrew the dollars it received in payment for exports from the head office of the Kor-Am Bank at an average of 1 billion won a day in 10 million-won checks totaling the equivalent of 35 billion won," she said.

Chong told the news conference at the Shalom Church in Pyong-tong, Seoul, that she was exposing the transfer of the money because she felt uneasy after the prosecution launched a probe into the possible misuse of company funds by Hyundai. She claimed that the money had been laundered before it was handed to the UPP by two Hyundai officials.

Chong identified the two officials as Yi Pyong-kyu, who worked in Chong's office when he was honorary group chairman, and Chong Hui- chan, assistant manager of her department.

To launder the money, Chong claimed, she endorsed the checks with a false name and then cashed them at the Chongno branch of the Sinhan Bank and at the Kye-tong branch of the Korea Exchange Bank.

The cash was then converted into 100,000-won and 1 million-won checks and placed in a secret safe at the Sinhan Bank's Chongno branch, Chong claimed.

She said 21 billion won had been turned over to the UPP in amounts of hundreds of million or billions of won at a time. As evidence, Chong showed reporters a document that she claimed was a copy of a receipt from Sinhan's Chongno branch for 890 million won that she had put into the safe on Dec. 2.

She also offered for public view four bankbooks in pseudonyms, two seals, and a notebook in which she recorded how the money was laundered.

Chong said she joined the Hyundai Ocean Development Co. in June 1984 and was transferred to the accounts department of Hyundai Heavy Industries in February 1985.

After the press conference, the police took Chong to Sodaemun Police Station for questioning. She was later moved to the National Police Administration.

Chong Dismisses Claim

SK0512085392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (YONHAP)—Chong Se-yong, chairman of the Hyundai group, has threatened to close the nation's largest conglomerate if government "persecution" continues.

"If the persecution goes on and disables business operations, then Hyundai will be closed," Chong told employees gathered in front of group headquarters in central Seoul on Saturday.

Chong dismissed a claim by a junior accountant at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. that her company had illegally provided his elder brother, Chong Chu-yong, founder of the group and presidential candidate of the United People's Party, with 35 billion won (44.6 million U.S. dollars) in campaign funds, saying such a low-level employee was not in a position to have dealt with the affair.

Chong said the group would make an announcement after looking into the allegation.

Meanwhile, some 8,000 employees of Hyundai companies attending the rally called on the government to immediately end its "persecution" of the group.

The National Police Administration and the office of National Tax Administration jointly launched an investigation of the group Friday for allegedly providing illegal support for its founder's election bid.

Police Confirm Secret Fund

SK0712084292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—The National Police Administration has confirmed that Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. channeled 55 billion won into secret accounts, and 33.7 billion won of it was withdrawn, a police spokesman said Monday.

The company was suspected to have given the 33.7 billion won to the United People's Party [UPP], headed by Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong, as campaign funds, the spokesman said.

Detectives had tracked the flow of 110 billion won deposited at a Hyundai Heavy Industries account at Koram Bank with the aid of the Office of Bank Supervision and found that 55 billion won had been diverted into a secret fund, he said. The 110 billion won was payment for exports, he said.

Money was withdrawn from the secret fund in 1 billion-won, 100 million-won and 10 million-won checks from July up until recently and the checks then deposited with the Korea Exchange Bank's Kye-tong branch (24.1 billion won) and the Chongno branch of the Shinhan Bank (30.9 billion won). The Hyundai affiliate cycled the money through five branches of the Hanil and Korea First Banks to disguise its origins, he said.

He said 21.3 billion won is left in several secret accounts of Hyundai Heavy Industries and police are looking for the rest of the 110 billion won, suspecting it might have gone to the UPP.

Yi Pyong-kyu, a special aide to Chong Chu-yong, and officials of the UPP and Hyundai Heavy Industries are wanted by the police to help them with their inquiries, he said.

Ministry Reprimands Paper

SK0212000992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1121 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Information Minister Yu Hyok-in Tuesday told the newspaper MUNHWA ILBO (Culture Daily) not to publish political special Sunday editions any more or face legal steps.

Minister Yu, in a letter to the daily's publisher Yi Kyu-haeng, complained that the newspaper published special Sunday editions on Nov. 22 and again on Nov. 29 filled exclusively with political stories excepting ad spaces.

"The exclusive use of political stories in the special editions violated the purpose of the newspaper given in its registration application, which is to help develop cultural values and to contribute to the balanced development of various cultural phenomena," Yu said.

The minister warned that if the newspaper continues to commit such violation, his ministry would take steps against the daily in accordance with relevant laws.

The MUNHWA ILBO is founded and run by the Hyundai Business Group. The two Sunday editions at issue were devoted to playing up the campaign activities of Chong Chu-yong, the founder of the Hyundai Group and now presidential candidate of the United People's Party.

No Tae-u Demands Punishment of Election Law Violators

SK0712080992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0613 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday that the prosecution should do its duty to the full and punish everyone who violates the election law.

Giving a letter of appointment to Prosecutor-General Kim Tu-hui and again in meeting of senior presidential secretaries, No said that the strictness of the election law should be demonstrated and that everyone who flouts it should be punished. All lawbreakers should be punished strictly and the fairness of law enforcement should be felt by all the people, he said.

Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong told a staff meeting that the campaign tactics of the United People's Party [UPP] and the Hyundai Group had created a serious problem and that, despite the UPP's accusations of impartiality, the government was doing its best to make the election fair from beginning to end.

Government Arrests 91

SK0712113792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—The government has arrested 91 people in 63 cases out of 775 booked in 461 cases on charges of violating the presidential election law as of Sunday, Kim Yo-hu, senior presidential secretary for inspection and reform affairs, said Monday.

In a report to president No Tae-u at Chongwadae, Kim said that 446 people in 268 cases are still under investigation on the charges.

Kim said that 322 people were charged with providing money or gifts to voters, 141 with distribution of leaflets, 49 with visits to homes of voters and 31 with slandering a candidate.

Registered members of the United People's Party (UPP) accounted for 240 of the people charged, the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) for 45, the Democratic Party (DP) for 32, the New Political Reform Party with four and independents for 454, Kim reported.

Of the arrests, 41 were affiliated with the UPP, two with the DLP and one with the DP, respectively, while 47 were found to be independents.

At the same time, 11 officials of the Hyundai Business Group with which the UPP has an affinity have been arrested so far on the charges, Kim said.

Minister Says Finance Industry Needs 'Drastic Reforms'

SK0712095692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0903 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Yi Yong-man said Monday that the Korean financial industry needed drastic reforms to survive the global competition.

Yi told a meeting on development of financial industry that the industry contributed to economic development in the last 30 years but its role and function were limited by political and social factors.

Autonomy of the financial sector had been denigrated as too much emphasis was put on the public function of the financial business, Yi said. The industry had been plagued by numerous calls for policy fund support, he said.

The financial industry ought to push for comprehensive changes and reform measures as renovation was taking place globally, he said.

On monetary and credit policies, Yi said that new management methods should be developed to prepare for autonomy and opening and that strengthening of the preventive supervision was urgently needed.

The minister added that the extent and limitation of policy loans and industrial loans should be reviewed for harmony of financial and industrial policies.

Ministry Survey Predicts Increase in Facilities Investment

SK0412101392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0918 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Facilities investment by major manufacturing industries is expected to substantially expand next year.

A survey of 79 firms in 16 business lines conducted recently by the Ministry of Trade and Industry showed that facilities investment would increase by 8.5 percent on the average next year over this year.

By business line, automobile industries replied in the survey they would increase facilities investment by 53.6 percent over this year, semiconductor by 41.8 percent, information communications equipment by 129.7 percent, shoes by 119.1 percent, tire by 65 percent and industrial machinery by 41.9 percent.

In particular, facilities investment by motor and semiconductor companies is likely to be expanded sharply as Kia and Hyundai are to develop new models and semiconductor to build new plants for 16-mega D-RAM memory chips.

Besides, investment by precision industries is to surge by 4.8 percent, electric home appliances by 9.5 percent and shipbuilding by 14 percent.

On the other hand, facilities investment by petro-chemical is expected to decline 41.7 percent, non-ferrous metal by 39.8 percent and iron and steel by 28.9 percent, respectively, from this year.

The decrease will be because the creation of the Taesan petro-chemical complex and a cold-rolling plant by the Pohang Iron and Steel Co. was completed this year.

A ministry official said industries were planning to expand investment next year influenced by expected business recovery in advanced countries, recovery of investment sentiments with the presidential election having been over, expected easing of fund situation and the government's investment encouragement programs.

Economics, Trade Institute Projects Exports Growth

SK0412054492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0507 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports will grow by 4 billion U.S. dollars and the Gross National Product will expand by 5.7 trillion won if the global economy recovers next year.

And if it doesn't recover, the figures will be 2.4 billion dollars and 3.42 trillion won, respectively, the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade said on Friday.

The institute, in a report on world economy growth and its effects on Korean industries, said if the global economy expands around 3 percent next year, the United States will have 3 percent economic growth, Japan 3.5 percent and Germany 1.5 percent.

Based on the last four years, 1 percent U.S. economic growth will bring 2 percent export demand growth for Korea, the report said. If world economy recovers fully next year, then Korea's export demand growth will be 4.1 billion dollars and if this turns into actual exports, Korea's gross domestic product would grow by 5.7 trillion won.

The garment, timber, furniture, ceramics, non-ferrous metals, machinery, and electric and electronics sectors will hit 4.28 billion dollars' export demand growth—electric and electronics, 2.3 billion dollars, garments, 1.1 billion dollars, and machinery, 700 million dollars.

In 11 industrial sectors, including precision machinery, export demand growth will hit 50 million dollars.

In the leather and ceramic industry, export will drop 250 million dollars.

If world economic growth slackens to around 1.5 percent, the U.S. economy will grow 1.8 percent, the Japanese economy, 2.7 percent, and the German economy, 0.8 percent.

The seven industrial sectors will hit 2.57 billion dollars export demand growth and the 11 sectors 30 million dollars, for a total of 2.45 billion dollars export demand growth.

Trade Minister Discusses Uruguay Round, Trade Prospects

SK0112001592 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 30 Nov 92 p 5

[Interview with Han Pong-su, ROK Minister of Trade and Industry, by unidentified SEOUL SINMUN reporter—first two paragraphs are SEOUL SINMUN editor's note]

[Excerpts] The world's trade environment is gloomy these days. The level of protectionism is increasing with the coming of Clinton's new U.S. Administration and the economic integration of the European Community [EC]. The developing countries which were once left behind are also chasing us vigorously to catch up with us. The time when we had no difficulty in selling as long as we kept shipping is no longer here.

Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su stresses: The only way for us to survive in the difficult trade environment is to make good products.

[Reporter] What is the current status of our exports and imports? Do you think they will improve next year?

[Han Pong-su] We expect that our exports will be $78 billion and imports will be $82.5 billion this year, with a trade deficit of $4.5 billion, which is about half of the trade deficit last year. I cannot give you the figures for next year yet because there are quite a few factors that can affect our trade. In view of the prospects of the world economy, I anticipate our trade performance next year will be about the same as this year. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Many anticipate that the trade friction between the ROK and the United States will deepen with the advent of the Clinton administration.

[Han] The new U.S. Administration will be little different from the Bush administration as far as our country is concerned. Our government is keeping up its policy of liberalizing imports, and the trade between the two countries is balanced. As for the pending trade issues, only the technical problems, such as customs clearance and quarantine procedures, remain unsettled. Therefore, if we faithfully abide by the promises we have made, such as introducing autonomy to the financial market, and communicate our position accurately to the officials of the new U.S. Administration, trade friction will be reduced.

[Reporter] The Uruguay Round talks are expected to make rapid progress now that the United States and the EC reached agreement on the key controversial issues. If the Uruguay Round talks are settled, the opening of our rice market will be inevitable, won't it?

[Han] Our government's position is that the multilateral negotiations of the Uruguay Round should be settled soon. If the Uruguay Round fails, we will be faced with a difficult situation of having to undergo bilateral talks. The issue of opening the rice market will certainly be raised, but we will make efforts so that our position for an exception to liberalization may carry through.

[Reporter] What if such efforts should prove unworkable?

[Han] Let's not assume they should fail.

[Reporter] What are your measures to cope with the trend of the formation of regional blocs, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement?

[Han] The trend of regionalism is spreading. But this regionalism also has a positive potential aspect of increasing our exports with the integration of economies. We will actively induce our businesses to extend their business activities into these regions to secure footholds there. We will positively cope with the situation by signing economic agreements with these regions. [passage omitted]

Government Ratifies 3 International Labor Organization Conventions

SK0712080292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0613 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has notified the International Labor Organization (ILO) of its ratification of three conventions on medical care for seamen, labor inspections and employment policy, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

The convention concerning the medical examination of seafarers, which goes into effect in June next year, mandates regular health tests for all seamen and bars them from sailing if they fail the test.

The convention concerning labor inspection in industry and commerce requires routine verification by a neutral group on working and welfare conditions, while the convention concerning employment policy calls for equal employment opportunities. These two conventions go into effect in December 1993. South Korea joined the ILO in December last year.

PRC Agrees To Conclude Tax, Aviation, Shipping Accords

SK0712075992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0543 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Beijing, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—Top Chinese and South Korean economic officials agreed Monday to seek the early conclusion of bilateral accords on avoidance of double taxation, aviation and maritime transportation.

The agreement between visiting Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu and his Chinese counterpart, Zou Jiahua, came in a meeting at Diaoyutai Monday morning.

Choe and Zou also agreed to regularize their meetings and Zou accepted Choe's invitation to visit Seoul to discuss detailed ways to expand economic cooperation between the two countries. The joint civilian-official feasibility study team to be sent to China for studying the investment environment early next year is expected to be joined by officials of Trade-Industry Ministry and representatives of such business groups as Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo and Lucky-Goldstar.

To Hold Annual Customs Talks

SK0412015692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0133 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China agreed Thursday to hold annual customs cooperation meetings to cope with the rising trade volume, a customs administration spokesman said Friday.

Customs Commissioner Paek Won-ku and Dai Jie, his Chinese counterpart, made the agreement in the first meeting between senior customs officials of the two countries. They agreed on exchanging customs officials and information on the international drug trade and automatization of clearance procedure. The administration will draw up the agreed points in a memorandum on Monday. They did not discuss tariff evasion by Chinese exporters disguising goods as North Korean products.

Early next year, Paek is to visit Beijing and initial an agreement with Dai based on the memorandum.

Last year, Seoul had exports to China of 2,470 million U.S. dollars and imports of 3,440 million dollars. In January-October, exports posted 1,970 million dollars and imports recorded 3,140 million dollars. China is Korea's third trade partner after the United States and Japan.

Agrees on Health Industry Cooperation

SK0512120992 Seoul YONHAP in English 1157 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and China agreed on health and medical industry cooperation including food and pharmaceutical trade, Health and Social Affairs Ministry officials said Saturday.

Vice Minister Pak Chong-pu met with Chinese Deputy Minister of Public Health Hu Ximing in Beijing and agreed to exchange visits by working-level officials before first half of next year to discuss details, they said.

The two countries may sign an official agreement within next year, according to the officials. The agreement would call for China to provide information on its farming and medicine industry and allow South Korean food and pharmaceutical companies to enter the Chinese market and make investments.

Firms Seek Participation in PRC Oil Drilling Plan

SK0712100092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0908 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 7 (YONHAP)—A South Korean consortium of six companies is to make a bid to develop undersea oil fields in the East China Sea, sources at the Korea Petroleum Development Corp. [KPDC] said on Monday.

KPDC, Yukong Ltd., Daewoo Corp., Hyundai Corp., Hyosung Corp., and Samhwan Co. have formed a consortium to participate in the Fourth Offshore Oil Development Plan, announced recently by the Chinese Government, and are discussing shares.

The mining area is on the continental shelf that extends from South of Cheju Island to Taiwan's maritime border via Shanghai. The Chinese Government is expected to open the 20 submarine mining zones to an international bidding next year.

The East China Sea mining area that the Korean consortium seeks to participate in is estimated to possess 12.5 billion barrels of oil and 54 firms, including 20 from the United States, five from Britain and six from Japan, are preparing bids.

A KPDC spokesman said that the Chinese Government is to accept bids by late June next year and choose the winners by December.

The considered shares in the Korean consortium are 30 percent for Yukong, 25 percent for KPDC, 10 percent for Hyundai, 10 percent for Daewoo, 10 percent for Samhwan and 5 percent for Hyosung. Kukdong Oil Co. was to invest the remaining 10 percent but gave up for business hardships, industry sources said.

China National Offshore Oil Corp. invited Korean companies to participate in the development of the continental shelf through formal diplomatic channels in June.

Korea Telecom To Provide Phone Service to Albania

SK0412091192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0721 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—South Koreans will be able to dial 171 countries, but not next door to North Korea, when service opens to Albania on Dec. 15, a Korea Telecom official said Friday. Korea Telecom is able to provide a service to Albania with the help of Italcable Co., an international communications company, and the Albanian Telecom via Italy, he said. It offers direct dial services to 170 countries, but needs an operator's assistance for hookups with Afghanistan.

Korea transmits direct lines to 64 countries by satellite or cable, and is linked with the other 107 through relays in third nations. Korea can contact Italy via the Indian Ocean satellite owned by Intelsat (the international telecommunications satellite organization), but lacks a satellite hook-up to Albania.

For direct calls to Albania, which does not have district codes, one only has to dial 001, "335 (country code)," phone number.

Seoul normalized ties with Tirana in August 1991, but efforts for communications cooperation with the East European nation were in progress before the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Ministry To Promote Environmental Exchanges With DPRK

SK0112095992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0738 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Environment Minister Yi Chae-chang said Tuesday that his ministry would breathe new life into inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation for joint environmental preservation efforts.

Reporting on the progress of environmental policies to President No Tae-u, Yi said his ministry would actively promote joint ecological surveys with North Korea in the Demilitarized Zone.

Yi told No that environmental standards would be strengthened from year to year and that his ministry would give technological and financial support to the environmental industry. Measures were needed to cope with the strict environmental regulations that U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton would impose when he took office, he said. The ministry would draft a law early next year to mandate advance assessment of the impact of development projects on the environment, he said.

An environmental technology development institute would be set up this month and environment-friendly technologies would be actively induced from advanced countries or through joint ventures, Yi said.

He said he would take steps to enable all waste from Inchon to be buried in the Kimpo landfill this month and secure dump sites in Chonju and Chongju as soon as possible.

Growth in the amount of waste slid to 2.6 percent this year from 8.7 percent in 1988 owing to a recycling campaign, Yi said. The recycling rate jumped three-fold to 8.9 percent from 2.4 percent in 1988.

The environment improvement tax to be introduced in February will add 64.9 billion won to the state coffers next year, he said.

Products Face 77 Charges by 10 Countries

SK0312022192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0116 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Ten countries have aimed 77 restrictions or anti-dumping investigations at South Korean imports, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. and the Korea Foreign Trade Association said Thursday.

The United States limits 14 Korean imports, including color televisions, photograph albums, telephone exchanges and acrylic sweaters, and six products, including DRAM

(Dynamic rAndom Access Memory) computer chips, wire rope and steel plates, are under dumping investigation.

The European Community (EC) regulates 16 Korean items, including below 16-inch color televisions and audio cassettes, and the European commission is conducting dumping probes into polyester fiber, electronic scales, floppy discs and large color televisions.

Australia restricts 14 Korean imports, including automobile batteries and cyanic natrium, and launched a dumping inquiry into plastic tableware in September.

Canada is checking on seven Korean goods, including waterproof rubber boots, rope for fishing nets and carbon steel pipes, and rubber boots are under dumping charges.

New Zealand recently imposed restrictions on four Korean items, including automobile batteries and men's shoes, and Turkey has slapped anti-dumping duties on Korean automobile batteries.

Mexico is carrying out anti-dumping investigations into three imports, including polyester fiber and cotton goods, while Argentina is investigating color televisions and car radios on suspicion of dumping. India has put polyvinyl chloride resin and styrene-butadiene rubber under investigation.

While restricting free import of zinc and color steel plates, Taiwan is investigating Korean cold-rolled steel sheet under dumping charges.

* Soviets Pick Kim Il-song as Second-Best Leader

932C0035A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 19 Oct 92 p 9

[By reporter Chang Haeng-hun: "Kim Il-song Was the Second Best Pick for the Soviets: Data Offered by Former North Korea Occupation Forces Officer Leonid Bashin"]

[Text] The leadership of the former Soviet Union had not firmly designated Kim Il-song to be North Korea's top leader before the liberation of Korea, and even at the time of the Korean Communist Party's first congress on 28 August 1945, a week after the occupation of Pyongyang by the Soviet forces, his role was still undetermined, it has been disclosed.

Also, when Japan surrendered, Kim Il-song's existence was virtually unknown to the Soviet military; until the top leadership in Moscow issued instructions about him, the Soviet occupation forces were headed in a totally different direction.

Commanding officer Chischakov of the 25th Army, the first Soviet unit to enter North Korea on 21 August 1945, was acting on his own dealing with postwar affairs when he had Cho Man-sik attend ceremonies marking the surrender of Japanese troops. Officers of a special propaganda team of the 25th Army—who was to play a decisive role in Kim Il-song's rise to the highest seat of power—even paid personal visits with Cho Man-sik to congratulate him on the liberation of Korea, it was disclosed.

Eventually, Kim Il-song took power as the Soviets, following their principle of not picking a local leader from among nationalists and indigenous communists in an occupied land, removed Cho Man-sik and 20-odd indigenous communists as candidates. Thus, Kim was the second best pick for them.

These facts have been brought to light by retired Lt. Col. Leonid Bashin, 77, who, then as an officer of the special propaganda team of the 25th Army, directly put the Kim Il-song-to-power scenario into action as instructed by the leadership in Moscow, witnessing the takeover—in a memoir he offered to TONG-A ILBO titled "Kim Il-song: Who Is He?" and personally in an interview with this reporter.

To meet him, I visited Novorossiysk, a city on the Black Sea about two hours by train from Moscow.

Bashin introduced himself as one of the less than five survivors among the former Soviet advisers who witnessed the process in which Kim Il-song seized power. For the sake of accuracy of historical records, he said, he wanted to straighten out some of the facts that have been erroneously reported all these years.

Since his testimony was not based on official documentation, it could be more or less at variance with historical facts. Nevertheless, it is full of suggestions as to how Kim Il-song rose to power in North Korea, a riddle we have been trying to solve for a long time.

[Questions and answers in the interview]—First, with regard to the date of Kim Il-song's arrival in Pyongyang, I hear that you differ with what has been known....

"Kim Il-song arrived in Pyongyang on 22 August 1945. We had arrived there on 21 August as the first group of the Soviet forces. As a member of the second group, he arrived from Khabarovsk by train."

—In the past, he was known to have arrived from Vladivostok by boat in early September. Recently, former Soviet Navy Commander Nizhunikov also testified that he personally escorted Kim Il-song to Wonsan by boat in September 1945....

"That is nonsense. I am not the only person who saw Kim Il-song on 22 August. Fourteen to 15 Soviet officers and Korean-Soviet interpreter officers of the 7th Special Propaganda Unit were there too, meeting him together."

—What led you to meet Kim Il-song?

"He was sent to our unit by General Rebedev of the Soviet Forces Headquarters."

—Why did the general send him to your unit?

"The 7th Unit was unique in that it had 14 to 15 Korean-language interpreters. It was a special organization whose mission was to support the local power structure and conduct pacification activities for residents of the occupied land. It belonged to the Politburo, presumably because it had nothing to do with military affairs."

—If Kim Il-song, as you said, arrived in Pyongyang only a day after the arrival of the first group of Soviet troops, does it mean that he had been designated, although informally, as North Korea's leader by Soviet authorities?

"I cannot answer that question for sure. In my view, the high authorities of our party had never picked an indigenous communist as the leader of the country in which grew. In Pyongyang then, there were more than 20 communists just released from prison; they had been sent by order of the Comintern. Moscow found them unreliable, however. In my view, the selection of Kim Il-song by the Soviets had similar background factors to those in the case of Babrak Karmal as Afghanistan's leader. In the judgement of the Soviet intelligence agency in Khabarovsk, I believe, Kim Il-song appeared to be the best pick and it recommended him to Moscow. Let me point out one thing: We had never reported the fact that Kim Il-song was in Pyongyang in newspapers or radio broadcasts for as long as two months."

—Why didn't you?

"In my view, it was because authorities saw the need for molding public opinion. One may recall that South Korean media then insisted that Kim Il-song was a fake. We decided to introduce him to the North Korean people at a rally on 14 October for the first time and, for two weeks prior to that date, continued to publicize daily in newspapers and radio broadcasts that General Kim Il-song, the hero of the Korean people, might show up at the rally. Stikov arrived in Pyongyang in early October to control North Korean political developments in entirety. His mission as a Politburo representative was to build socialism in North Korea. Now that Stikov arrived, General Rebedev took his hands off politics to only control military affairs."

—Can we think that Kim Il-song's future course had been decided before Stikov's arrival?

"It is possible that the Soviet policy about Kim Il-song was determined on 25-26 or 27 August. But it was not a decisive one yet. At the time, a directive came from Moscow. It stated that the then-scheduled congress of communists should just select members of the organizational bureau but not a leader of the organization, and that it should not adopt a political program either. My interpretation was that the directive reflected Moscow's need for time for a decision about Kim Il-song, for Kim had never been to Moscow and no one in Moscow knew about him. They had no information about him except reports from the intelligence unit in Khabarovsk."

—The speech Kim Il-song made at the first congress of the Korean Communist Party was allegedly written by Soviet people....

"Three persons including me wrote that speech. It mainly dwelled on the role of the Soviet forces in the liberation of Korea, the duties of communists in the creation and strengthening of the power structure, the organizing of production and in making preparations for land reform, noting that Leninism is a theory suitable to the building of socialism in North Korea. I forwarded the substance of the speech to the Party History Research Institute of the North Korean Workers Party."

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Environment Minister Says Japan Not To Use Strait

BK0412154792 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Japan has given its assurance to three countries along the Strait of Malacca that its vessel, Akatsuki Maru, laden with a cargo of plutonium will not use the straits. Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding, said the Japanese Government had contacted him two weeks ago to clarify that the vessel will adhere to all regulations and will not use the Straits of Malacca. The statement was expeditiously transmitted to Indonesia and Singapore.

Malaysia and the two countries have a common stand concerning the vessel's voyage route. He said this during a joint press conference with Singapore's environment minister, Dr. Ahmad Mattar, at the Kuching International Airport before leaving for Kuala Lumpur. Singapore's seven-member Environment Ministry delegation arrived last night.

Datuk Law said Japan did not wish to use the Strait of Malacca because of the busy maritime traffic and also due to the narrowness of the waterway.

Speaking at the press conference, Dr. Ahmad said Singapore will assist Sarawak in overcoming the problem of pollution by extending expertise and needed information.

Singapore

Foreign Minister Wong Visits New Zealand

BK0412120492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr. Wong Kan Seng, has urged New Zealand to create a more favorable condition to attract investors. This will enable the country to compete with the East Asian and Southeast Asian nations which are liberalizing their economies [illegible]. Wong Kan Seng [words indistinct] two-day visit [illegible]e country.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman says Mr. Wong has called on the New Zealand prime minister, Mr. Jim Bolger. Both men expressed the need for the U.S. to remain present in the region. Mr. Wong also met other leaders. He discussed with his New Zealand counterpart, Mr. Don McKinnon, regional developments, including Cambodia and Myanmar [Burma]. His discussions with the [illegible] negotiations minister, Mr. Philip Burdon, had (?touched on) trade matters, including GATT. The defense minister, Mr. Warren Cooper, reaffirmed New Zealand's commitment to the Five-Power Defense Arrangements [FPDA]. Mr. Wong also discussed the FPDA with the opposition leader, Mr. Mike Moore.

Navy Acquires British Ship To Upgrade Fleet

BK0512061092 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Dec 92 p 27

[Text] The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) has acquired a British-owned vessel as part of its efforts to upgrade its fleet of support ships.

The Defence Ministry (Mindef) said yesterday that the vessel Lowland Lancer was acquired in October and arrived here from South Africa on Nov. 21.

The 29-year-old 5,500 tonne vessel is to be retrofitted locally as a support vessel and is expected to join the RSN's fleet next year.

With this acquisition, Mindef said that the RSN would be able to retire two of its 45-year-old landing ship tanks (LSTs).

The navy's present fleet of support ships includes five LSTs, which are used to transport equipment to support the army's overseas training and for the training of cadet naval officers or midshipmen in ocean passage planning and navigation.

Mindef said that even with recent refurbishments, the LSTs which joined the navy in 1975 would soon become uneconomical to maintain.

It added that retiring two LSTs would result in both manpower savings and a reduction in operating costs as the Lowland Lancer has a greater storage capacity and faster turnaround time than the LSTs.

The Lowland Lancer, which was launched in 1963, has a top speed of 15 knots, requires a crew of 65, and can take a helicopter on its deck.

Democratic Party To Run in 19 Dec By-Election

BK0512142592 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The Singapore Democratic Party [SDP] will be contesting the 19 December by-election in the Marine Parade GRC [Group Representation Constituency]. This was disclosed today by the party secretary general, Mr. Chiam See Tong, who said further details will be given later. The Workers Party had earlier said it would also be contesting the by-election with its leader Mr. J.B. Jeyaretnam as the (?main) candidate. In all five SDP [words indistinct] has announced, this could result in the three-cornered fight. Mr. Jeyaretnam declined to comment.

Cambodia

SRV Rejects KR Charges on Toxic Chemical Use

BK0412115692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] On 2 December, a spokesman for our embassy accredited to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia issued the following statement:

On 14 November 1992, a military spokesman of the Khmer Rouge [KR] faction issued a statement that fabricated about the so-called Vietnamese plan to use toxic chemicals during the 1992-93 dry season in Cambodia.

The spokesman for the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam accredited to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia is authorized to flatly reject this brazen and ill-intentioned slander of the Khmer Rouge.

The spokesman for our embassy accredited to the Supreme National Council of Cambodia once again affirms that Vietnam has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia and has not sent any forces and weapons to Cambodia since September 1989.

Akashi, Thai Envoy Discuss 'Ban' on UN Flights

BK0312152392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], summoned the Thai ambassador to Phnom Penh for a discussion on the Thai ban on UN flights over Thai airspace. The Thai ambassador explained to the UNTAC chief that UN flights have not been banned but that Thailand wants UNTAC to respect aviation rules and to seek advance permission for its flights the same way Thai flights need to get advance permission before flying to or from Cambodia. The ambassador pointed out that the move taken was not a retaliation for UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge, which have failed to cooperate under the Cambodian peace plan. It was coincidental that Thailand implemented the aviation regulation at the same time that the UN sanctions were passed.

[Begin Thai ambassador recording] Mr. Akashi, who is the UN general secretary's special envoy here, now understands that the flight clearance rule enforced by Thailand had nothing to do with the UN Security Council's resolution. It was our need to implement an existing regulation. [end recording]

Mr. Akashi said the incident had affected UNTAC operations to a certain extent, as UNTAC needs to fly in and out of Thailand. He believed that the flight ban was not a decision of the Thai Government. Anyway, UNTAC and the Thai Government will hold discussions to solve the problem to smooth out and speed up flights between the two countries.

Indonesian Troops Arrive for UN Peacekeeping

BK0712071092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] The Garuda XII-C troopers arrived at Phnom Penh's Pochentong Aiport yesterday afternoon to serve in the UN peacekeeing force in Cambodia and replace the Garuda XII-A troopers who had completed their tour of duty. The Garuda XII-C battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel (Darmawi Kaidir) was welcomed by Indonesian Ambassador to Cambodia Taufik Rahman. Addressing the welcoming ceremony, Ambassador Taufik Rahman expressed hope that the new troopers, who are from the Salatiga-based 411st battalion of the Army Strategic Command, would be able to maintain the excellent performance of the Garuda XII-A and Garuda XII-B battalions in Cambodia.

Indonesian Role in Hostage Release Reported

BK0412105492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0927 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (OANA/ANTARA).—Indonesian Garuda XII peacekeeping troops have managed to release the six UNTAC officers kept in hostage by Khmer Rouge forces, following tough deliberation with Khmer Rouge Kompong Thom Commander, Brig. Gen. Men Ron, Garuda XII B Contingent Commander, Lieut. Col. Ryamizard told ANTARA by phone Thursday night that he planned to send eight more troopers by two speedboats to the Anglung Kranh village, to fetch the six freed UNTAC officers.

Gen. John Sanderson, the UNTAC military commander, had asked the Garuda XII command to make another attempt after his efforts to release the hostages had failed.

The six released hostages were Lieut. Col. Mark Walton and Capt. Jammie William of the British Army, Lieut. Pieter Verney of the British Navy, Naval non-commissioned officers Jose Almiranto and Blandino Mones of the Phillipines Navy, and non-commissioned officer John Oxenham of the New Zealand Navy. They were arrested by the Khmer Rouge forces on charges of spying.

At midnight on Tuesday the Garuda command despatched 12 of its men to Anglung Kranh who managed to talk to the commander in power over that region. The Indonesian troopers commanded by Capt. Robert did not give up in spite of the request from the local Khmer Rouge commander that they quit the village, which was some three hours travelling by speedboat from Kompong Thom.

The extra Garuda XII 8-men unit commanded by Capt. Supit was due to fetch the six released UNTAC officers on Friday. Latest report said that they were all in good condition, Lieut.Col. Ryamizard said that he was really proud of the success hoping that it would add to the image of the Garuda XII contingent in the eyes of the other UNTAC peacekeeping forces.

He said this was the third success scored by the Garuda XII contingent in liberating the UNTAC troopers from detention by the Khmer Rouge forces.

For the seven month assignment in Cambodia, Garuda XII contingent has managed to make approaches with the four armed factions, owing to its flexibilty, adaptation and intercourse with them, Ryamizard said.

KPNLF Official Discusses Causes of Deadlock

BK0512032992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 92 p A6

[Article by M.H. Lao, director of the Institution of Public Administration of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front: "From Dictatorship to Democracy"]

[Text] To those who care about human rights, individual liberties, democracy, and in particular the general wellbeing of the Cambodian people after their long suffering, the Paris peace agreements are a great promise.

No one could have a clearer perception than Samdech Preah Sihanouk when, at the signing ceremony on Oct 23,1991, he described these agreements and the peace plan of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (Perm-5) as "two historical documents. They constitute for us, Khmers, a Charter, which shall guide and lead us, from a solid base towards a future filled with peace, justice and a true democracy, while giving to the different Cambodian problems appropriate solutions."

However, thus far, the implementation of the peace plan has run into a number of difficulties, such as the ineffectiveness of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), the continued presence of the Vietnamese in Cambodia and the refusal by the Democratic Kampuchea party to abide by its second phase (cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of troops). The base looks rather shaky and many of the problems are still there at the time of writing. The absence of a tradition of power-sharing among the ruling elites has been singled out as one of the main causes of the whole trouble. The following is an attempt to find out why such a tradition is absent and to find ways to overcome such a lack and promote national reconciliation and unity, and establish democracy in Cambodia.

Dictatorial Rule

Until the end of World War Two, Cambodian rulers were using the chakrawatti system to rule their country. This system was a very centralized system under which all powers were concentrated in the hands of the rulers. All Cambodians were their subjects. In the country there was only one absolute ruler who tolerated no opinions different from his own. There cannot be two or more suns in the sky. All viceroys and other officials must submit unquestionably to his rule and serve the king as his servants or instrument. These viceroys and other officials were in turn potentates in their respective domains. They enjoyed all the privileges while the people were simply their serfs.

This dictatorial system could not fight off Western colonial expansion. Cambodia fell under French colonial rule in 1863. This rule controlled but did not remove the king's absolute power over his subjects, regardless whether back in France the French people had made the epoch-making 1789 Revolution to overthrow royal absolutism. The French were ruling the Cambodian people like oriental despots. No Cambodian dared to challenge them. Cambodia was under two layers of dictatorial rule with French colonial rule on top of Cambodian royal absolutism.

Back in the French metropolis, the political system was a very centralized one. In Cambodia this centralization was extended from the political to the economic sphere in which the Bank of Indochina had virtually all the monopoly. It consolidated chakrawatti absolutism. The evolution of the French system towards decentralization had virtually no impact on French colonial rule and none at all on the Cambodian traditional rule. Republicanism in France was being consolidated while in Cambodia kingship was hardly affected by it.

A comparison with British rule and British colonies may illustrate further French colonial rule and chakrawatti absolutism. In England the Magna Carta of 1215 guaranteeing personal and political liberty, and the 1688 Revolution reduced royal absolutism for good and transferred state powers to the Parliament, that is, the English people. The political system was and still is very decentralized. Although British colonial rule, like French colonial rule did not differ much from Oriental despotism, it nevertheless left the status quo of the indigenous political system such as the decentralized, autonomous Malay sultanates, little affected.

In fact, it consolidated this decentralization which later evolved into formal federalism. This decentralization characterized also the economic sphere where there were many British companies competing with one another in the colonies and where indigenous people could set up business enterprize. Furtherore, back in the English metropolis there were English leaders calling for retribution of colonrial officials who were abusing their powers and mistreating indigenous inhabitants. There was also among English conquerors a well established tradition of "teaching nations how to live."

Back to the French and Cambodian case, after the shock of World War Two, the French began to loosen their grip on its colonies, including Cambodia, by allowing them some degree of autonomy within the French Union. At the same time, Cambodian elites who had been trained in France began to appreciate democratic rule and some, in particular Prince Sisowath Youtevong, brought it to Cambodia when they returned home after their studies. They succeeded in introducing it to Cambodian society and, in 1947, formally transforming the absolute monarchy into a constitutional monarchy but still under French rule.

However, this liberal democracy was soon curtailed and finally replaced by guided democracy characterized by a one-party system of government from 1955 to 1970. Another attempt was made to restore liberal democracy in the early 1970s but the leadership, political and administrative system was so defective, and the war extended from Vietnam and the strength of communist forces were so overwhelming that that democracy was nicked in the bud. Communism won in 1975. Another layer of dictatorial rule, this time thicker, much harder, much more brutal and much more pervasive, that is, totalitarian, fell with all its might and savagery on Cambodia, thoroughly destroying all of the Cambodian infant civil society,

These three layers of dictatorship seem to have embedded in the subconsciousness of many Cambodians and have manifested themselves in the rigid unpromising and dictatorial attitude of many of the current Cambodian leading elites. These people may have compassion (the sense of pity felt by a person in a superior position for a person in lower position). But they do not have any tolerance, in the sense of letting others have ideas and opinions different from one's own. When there is no tolerance, national reconciliation for those potentates has a quite different connotation. It means submission to their rule.

Centrifugal Forces

In the old days, absolute monarchs invariably resorted to the divide-and-rule manoeuvre, playing off one Cambodian against another as an important element of their statecraft in order to stay in power. This manoeuvre now becomes a centrifugal force preventing national reconciliation and unity.

For their part, the Paris peace agreements are meant to promote such national reconciliation and unity. But the election they have provided for not long after a bloody armed conflict is ironically a centrifugal force pulling all Cambodian political groupings apart and polarizing the Cambodian people. In particular those who claim to have power have been manoeuvring to consolidate and strengthen their respective positions, to cling on to power or wrestle it from others.

Pragmatism of Untac and foreign governments and organizations in carrying out their operations through any specific groups alone only creates unfairness, if not openly antagonize other rightful parties in the peace process. Consequently this created tension and conflict among all rightful partners and leading them astray from the path of national reconciliation a a unity.

Liberalism

Facing such a bleak background, pessimists would only despair. Optimists would, however, feel they could do something now that this problem has been identified. The following might be some moves they could make to achieve national reconciliation and unity.

First, all liberal elements in Cambodian society must close their ranks, work harder together and be more daring in their work to remove the layers of dictatorship by offering to replace them with a liberal layer through civic and political education of all citizens, and by mobilizing the people to challenge all dictators. Foreign liberals could help their Cambodian counterparts in the form of expertise and material assistance. But these foreign liberals could help most the Cambodian people in establishing liberal order and embedding democratic culture in Cambodian society if they would come in Cambodia itself to set up their offices to disseminate this knowledge of human rights and democracy while the going is good with Untac's presence.

Secondly, those who are committed to and engaged in national reconciliation and unity should act as rallying points for the different groups and finally form the core of Cambodian society. Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, His Excellency Son Sann and (to a lesser extent) Prince Norodom Ranariddh could well be these rallying points and form a core with Samdech Preah Sihanouk at the apex. Other Cambodians and foreign helpers (Untac) who are working for the same objective of national reconciliation and unity should help strengthen these rallying points and the core they eventually form. The clergy could help also through their religious work to embed moral and ethical values, in particular tolerance, in Cambodian society.

The boat leaves but the port stays behind, the Cambodians say. Untac will soon leave. If it succeeds in consolidation that centripetal force, it will have left behind a good legacy. Preah Norodom Sihanouk and His Excellency Son Sann have an advanced age but have still many years ahead of them to help achieve national reconciliation and unity. Their success in these endeavours will be their great gift to the younger generations.

For their part liberals will serve as additional anchors for liberal democracy. If all this work has started alongside the implementation of the Paris peace agreements, the building of national reconciliation and unity, and of democracy will have been half completed, as the Chinese would say.

Writer Analyzes New Khmer Rouge Party

BK0512045592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 92 p 5

["Asia Pacific Focus" by Jacques Bekaert: "The Khmer Rouge's Dangerous Game"]

[Text] This week's announcement of a new party set up by the Khmer Rouge did not come as a surprise. The Khmer Rouge had said privately that they would not contest next year's elections under the name of Democratic Kampuchea. It is not a very marketable name, it is badly tainted by horrible events between 1975 and 1978, when the Khmer Rouge were in power.

But many militants and leaders of the organisation believe that the majority of Cambodians have forgiven them because of their struggle against Vietnam in the past 13 years, and because of the sacrifices made by thousands of men and women in the name of Cambodian independence.

"We know we made mistakes, but we are convinced people are also aware of everything we endured since the Vietnamese invasion. We were the only force seriously fighting for our country," one Khmer Rouge source told me recently.

What the Cambodian people think about the Khmer Rouge is a bit confusing. Few people, it seems, want to see them return to power. On the other hand, quite a few people see them as patriots.

The constant propaganda against Vietnamese settlers, the corruption of the ruling party in Phnom Penh or the misdeeds of the United Nations Transitory Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC) appears to have a real impact on a large sector of the population. A reliable UNTAC source has admitted that the number of people listening to the Khmer Rouge radio the Voice of the Great Nationai Union Front of Cambodia (GNUFC) is growing.

Assuming that the Khmer Rouge decide to join the peace process and comply with the requirements of Phase II, what are the chances of the Nationl Union Party of Cambodia (NUPC), which was officially launched on 30 November? People still see it as the Party of Democratic Kampuchea in (not so) new clothes.

The presence of Mr Khieu Samphan as President of the NUPC is no surprise. Of all the senior Khmer Rouge leaders, Khieu Samphan, who holds a PhD in Economics from France, is probably the only one who enjoys some real popularity among Cambodians, even outside his own party. His final thesis (Cambodia's Economy and Industrial Development) was not a blueprint for the kind of ultra radical reforms that took place in 1975.

A soft spoken intellectual, Khieu Samphan gained the support of many poor Khmer peasants in the late Fifties and early Sixties, first as the daring editor of l'Observateur, and later as a leftist member of parliament in Phnom Penh who defended the poor with great vigour and real courage.

Even recently, while in Cambodia, I often heard the remark that "Khieu Samphan is not like the other Khmer Rouge leaders, and not responsible for the massacres" that took place when the Khmer Rouge were in power.

If there is an asset to the NUPC it is probably Khieu Samphan. His pictures were often used in recent months by Khmer Rouge propaganda teams operating in the countryside. Khieu Samphan, the peasants are told, is the only faction leader who is truly concerned about the fate of the poor.

When a "spontaneous" demonstration was organised against Khieu Samphan on the day of his return to Phnom Penh a year ago, it quickly backfired. He was the wrong target, many Cambodians believe.

The vice president of the NUPC is Son Sen. No surprise here either. Like Khieu Samphan, Son Sen is a member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC). He is also the commander of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

Like most armies in the world the NADK wants to be heard. But the political leadership of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea ,NUPC, wants to be in charge. It sees the military branch as an important element of the struggle, but insists that final decision-making rests with the "civilians".

Since the Vietnamese dry season offensive of 1984-85, when the resistance lost practically all its border camps and bases, the Khmer Rouge have revised their strategy to give much more importance to political work over strictly military operations. Not all military commanders were at first enthusiastic, and some of them probably believed, especially after the Vietnamese troop withdrawal in 1989, that more emphasis on military matters would serve them well.

The presence of Son Sen both in the Supreme National Council (SNC) and the leadership of the new party should help keep the NADK in line.

The biographies of the ten members of the "founding committee" of the NUPC testify to their academic achievements. Many have a diplomatic background, like Chan Youran, the DK ambassador to China, or Hing Un, a graduate in Agronomic Sciences from Belgium and presently ambassador to several African countries.

In Sopheap is ambassador to Egypt, Somalia and Sudan, while Kor Bun Eng and Tep Khunnal both served at the Cambodian mission to the United Nations in New York. Pech Bun Ret is permanent representative of Cambodia to ESCAP. Mak Ben has ambassadorial rank and is attached to the SNC secretariat, while Sar Kim Lomouth had a government career in Cambodia.

The NUPC has already declared that it would only take part in the elections if the Paris agreements are "correctly and fully implemented, especially if all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia."

The term "all categories of Vietnamese forces" is an interesting characterisation. Does a fisherman or a carpenter with a gun to protect himself belong to the Vietnamese forces? I imagine that the Khmer Rouge will say: Yes, he does....

What are the chances of the NUPC joining 14 other parties to contest the elections? The Khmer Rouge leadership believes it would be useful only if the vote can guarantee a minimum of deputies in the National Assembly. As Khieu Samphan demonstrated so well in the Sixties, even for a revolutionary movement a parliamentary presence can be useful. The National Assembly is a practical venue to denounce abuses and corruption.

One can argue that the Khmer Rouge have no right to obstruct the peace process, even if some of their complaints are well-founded because they signed the Paris accords. This is very much the point of view of the US State Department which was anxious to see strong sanctions against the PDK.

In the end I doubt anyone can truly influence the Khmer Rouge. They see their survival as the ultimate guarantee for the survival of the Khmer nation. And from what has occurred since the UN Security Council decided to impose a few sanctions, they are probably convinced that they can still gain more time.

In the meantime, the Khmer Rouge will keep denouncing the Vietnamese presence and corruption, and increase their attack against the UNTAC.

"Of late we have noted a change in the principle of equal treatment for the four factions," Mr Ieng Sary told Japanese journalists in late July. Today, the language is more blunt.

"The Cambodian people no longer have faith in UNTAC and the United Nations. The Cambodian people have no other way than to continue fighting by themselves until there is a control to ensure the withdrawal of all type of Vietnamese aggressor forces for the survival of Cambodia and the Khmer race," said a recent broadcast of the VGNUFC.

No wonder that a Khmer Rouge military commander in Kompong Thom thought it was a good idea to detain a few UNTAC observers. To the Khmer Rouge militants, the UNTAC is now described as just another enemy.

Vietnamese, UNTAC Said Arranging New Scheme

BK0712065392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Dec 92

[News analysis: "The Allies Inside and Outside UNTAC Both in Cambodia and Abroad Are Arranging a New Plan and Scheme in Cambodia"]

[Text] Reports from various Cambodian and foreign circles both inside and outside Cambodia confirm that:

I. The Yuon [Vietnamese] aggressors and their puppets together with their allies within and without UNTAC have assessed the situation in the past year as follows:

They have arduously and actively carried out all kinds of activities and schemes militarily, politically, and diplomatically, including the use of propaganda, threats, persuasion, and deceit, to destroy the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and to get rid of the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] with the aim of maintaining the Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia to assist the Phnom Penh puppet regime in inducing the other political parties to join the Yuon puppet regime so that there will be just one Cambodian party—the party under control of the Yuon aggressor forces and under the allies within and outside UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. All the above activities and schemes were carried out in the past year and more, but failed successively and were opposed by the national opinion of the Cambodian people both inside and outside the country.

Through this assessment, national and international public opinion has seen that the Yuon aggressors and their puppets have now become infamous and their allies inside and outside UNTAC are also gradually gaining a bad name.

II. The reports said that the Yuon aggressors and their puppets together with their allies inside and outside UNTAC have suffered such setbacks and become so infamous because:

A. The Cambodian nation and people and Cambodian national resistance forces have stood firm on the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly on the points calling for:

1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] to play its role as the legitimate body and sole source of power during the transitional period;

2. The UNTAC and the SNC to jointly supervise the total withdrawal of all categories of Yuon aggressor forces from Cambodia and prevent them from returning;

3. The UNTAC and the SNC to cooperate in supervising the demobilization of the four Cambodian forces by 70 percent;

4. Only the UNTAC to directly control the five ministries, namely, the Defense, Security, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Information Ministries.

B. By firmly adhering to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly to the important points mentioned previously, the Cambodian national forces and people have united even more firmly and widely everywhere in the countryside, cities, and abroad.

Due to this united strength of the entire Cambodian nation and people, all forms of plans and schemes carried out in the past year and more by the Yuon aggressors and their puppets as well as their allies inside and outside UNTAC were frustrated successively.

III. The reports said that in such a situation when they have suffered successive setbacks and become even more infamous, especially after their failure at the SNC meeting held in Beijing in November this year, the Yuon aggressors, their puppets, and their allies within and outside UNTAC have been busily mapping out many more plans and schemes.

According to the reports, in these new plans and schemes, the allies inside and outside UNTAC have been designing a puppet project that is illegal and runs counter to the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement in order to form a single faction within the framework of the Yuon puppet regime in which the existing Yuon aggressor forces continue to stay in Cambodia, fresh Yuon aggressor forces continue to sneak into Cambodia, and civilian Yuon forces continue to stream into Cambodia in an uninterrupted flow, to the point that there are now more than 2 million of these forces, including more than 1 million Yuon—both those who can speak Cambodian and many who cannot—who have just obtained Cambodian nationality.

IV. The reports revealed that the allies inside and outside UNTAC together with the Yuon aggressors and their puppets have mapped out the composition of a government that is illegal and runs counter to the Paris agreement, as follows:

A. They plan to make Samdech Norodom Sihanouk the head of state of Yuon's State of Cambodia [SOC].

B. They plan to make Prince Norodom Ranariddh the prime minister of Yuon's SOC.

C. They plan to turn puppet Hun Sen into the first deputy prime minister of Yuon's SOC.

D. They plan to make General Sak Sutsakhan the second deputy prime minister of Yuon's SOC.

E. They plan to make His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann the chairman of the National Assembly of the Yuon's SOC.

V. The reports added that those in Cambodian and foreign circles who have learned of the aforementioned project speculated that it would not be feasible because Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, could not accept it since he is a patriotic monarch and could never be separated from the Cambodian nation and people, nor could he violate the Paris agreement.

Concerning H.E. Son Sann, large segments of Cambodian and foreign opinion have the same view: H.E. Son Sann could never become a Yuon puppet.

As for Prince Norodom Ranariddh, he also could never become a Yuon puppet, nor could he run against and oppose the nation and people. In particular, he could not oppose mass opinion within FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]

VI. The reports said further that Cambodian and foreign circles which are well versed in history, particularly the recent history of Laos, in which the Yuon have swallowed up Laos by assassinating Lao King Savang Vatthana and Prince Souvanna Phouma. They fully concurred that the Yuon of Hanoi are playing the same trick in Cambodia as they did in Laos when they murdered King Savang Vatthana and Prince Souvanna Phouma. But national and international opinion holds that in Cambodia it will not be easy for both the allies within and without UNTAC and the Yuon to repeat what happened in Laos, because in Cambodia there are many internal and external factors that would prevent both the allies within and without UNTAC and the Yuon from doing what they did in Laos without impunity.

Indonesia

Rebels Reportedly Surrender After Gusmao Appeal

BK0512161492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 5 (AFP)—Thirty six members of an East Timor pro-independence movement have surrendered to the Indonesian military following a written appeal from their captured leader, unconfirmed press reports said here Saturday.

The members of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin) surrendered Tuesday to the military district command at Same, Manufahi regent, THE JAKARTA POST quoted East Timor military operational commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei as saying.

No independent or military confirmation of the surrenders was immediately available, while East Timor's bishop said reports of an agreement for the guerrillas to give themselves up at specified churches were all "lies."

The JAWA POS daily said Thursday the military persuaded the guerrillas to surrender by delivering a copy of a handwritten letter by long-time movement leader Jose "Xanana" Gusmao—captured November 20 in the East Timor capital Dili—calling them to give themselves up.

The daily quoted Syafei as saying that following Gusmao's surrender, Jakarta had offered an amnesty to guerrillas who gave themselves up to designated churches.

"I want you to think it over. Do not waste this chance. Go and surrender to the nearest military posts. I am waiting for you," the POS quoted Gusmao's letter as saying.

It said the 36 that surrendered were released after the questioning but obliged to report three times a week. Military figures recently put the movement's membership at about 200.

East Timor Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo told AFP Friday reports that churches had been prepared for guerrillas to surrender were "completely false."

The POS quoted the bishop as saying in a Christmas pastoral message, to be released in two weeks, an "amnesty is the best way for those still roaming in the forests to come down" and that eight churches had been prepared for their surrender.

"It is all military propaganda," he told AFP. "There is nothing whatsoever about any church being designated for this (surrender). I have not yet taken any decision on whether to issue a Christmas pastoral letter. It is all lies."

Gusmao, 45, who headed the armed faction of Fretilin since 1979 before his capture during a dawn raid on his underground hideout in Dili, reportedly said in his letter, "I know it would be hard for all of you. But I think this is the time for you to give up your weapons."

"I hope this is not too late to confess our mistake" and admit East Timor has been integrated with Indonesia, the POS quoted Gusmao's correspondence as saying.

The letter reportedly urged the Fretilin guerrillas, who have been fighting against Indonesian presence in the former Portuguese colony since 1975, not to rely on support from Portugal for their struggle.

Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and Jakarta unilaterally declared East Timor its 27th province one year later. The United Nations and Portugal do not recognize the action.

The state television network Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI) Tuesday showed Gusmao acknowledging to East Timor Governor Abilio Soares that the territory was now part of Indonesia and calling for his colleagues to surrender.

General Confirms Surrender

BK0612054492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0422 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 6 (OANA-ANTARA)—Spokesman for the Indonesian Armed Forces Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro has confirmed that 36 members of the FRETILIN [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] security disturbance movement (GPK) surrendered last Friday after their leader Jose Alexandre Xanana Gusmao was captured on November 20 on the outskirts of Dili.

Two of them were women and two units of weapon were seized from them, Nurhadi told ANTARA here on Sunday.

They are now receiving health care, Nurhadi said.

In a related development, an ANTARA source said 250 members of a clandestine group, known to themselves as Klandestin, are expected to disband on Monday in the East Timor town of Baucau after a public ceremony of repentance and regret.

East Timor field operations commander Brigadier General Theo Syafei on Saturday already received a statement of repentance and regret from 107 members of the Klandestin who were involved in the November 12, 1991 bloody incident in Dili, capital of East Timor.

The statement was directly submitted to Syafei by five members of clandestine group representing the other members.

In full consciousness they admitted that all this time they had been misled by the GPK in East Timor which was intent on merely disturbing public security and order.

Syafei estimated the number of weapons currently owned by FRETILIN Members at 100 units compared to 17,000 in 1975 when they controlled all regional capitals. He said no villages in East Timor are now under their control.

Syafei earlier estimated the number of rebels in East Timor's jungles in January of this year at 200 with 120 weapons.

He said that they were scattered in small groups of three or four who rarely met with one another.

Fretilin Calls Claims 'Ridiculous'

BK0712102692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Darwin, Australia, Dec 7 (AFP)—The East Timor resistance group Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] rejected Monday claims by Jakarta that dozens of independence supporters in the troubled territory had renounced their cause.

Speaking on the 17th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor, Fretilin's spokesman in Australia, Alfredo Ferreira, said the claim was "ridiculous".

If it were true, Indonesia would allow independent observers into East Timor to see for themselves what was happening, he said.

According to reports from Jakarta a statement from 107 youths who say they are former Fretilin supporters was released in the provincial capital, Dili, by Indonesian military authorities.

It purported to call for the execution of Xanana Gusmao and another senior rebel captured in January, Antonio Mauhudu, and said the supporters now realised they had been misled by Fretilin propaganda.

Gusmao, who had led the independence struggle, was captured in Dili on November 20 by Indonesian security forces. Fretilin supporters here believe he has been forced by torture to renounce his causes.

Indonesia has yet to allow the International Red Cross or other independent groups to see Gusmao.

Ferreira said claims that independence supporters had renounced the cause were "too ridiculous" and didn't make any sense. "No-one is there to witness their claims."

He said he believed Indonesia had used its own agents to stage the apparent backdown and to substantiate their accusations against Xanana. Ferreira said if Indonesia wanted to be taken seriously, it should open East Timor.

"The only thing they have to do is open the doors to East Timor to independent observers to go and see for themselves," Ferreira said.

"Indonesia doesn't know how to deal with the issue because it is so public. No-one trusts them, the International Red Cross is still not allowed to see Xanana," he said.

Military Chief Warns of Possible Communist Revival

BK2611153692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1128 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Jakarta, Nov 26 (AFP)—Indonesia's military commander in-chief, General Try Sutrisno, Thursday warned against a possible revival of communism here despite its demise in Europe.

"As a system, communism may be history. But that is in Europe. In Asia, there are still three countries that maintain communism as their political system," Try told members of a parliamentary commission at a hearing.

Try called on Indonesians to remain alert to communism, adding that it would never disappear for good.

The military has continued to regard a return of communist forces as one of the main threats to Indonesian security, and has treated with suspicion remnants of the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI), outlawed in 1966 after it was accused of attempting a coup one year earlier.

Try said many of those who now spoke out for human rights and democracy came from the new left. "Now they act under the cover of human rights and democratization issues ... So be prepared and do not take for granted that there is nothing out there," he said.

He said communism and its teachings had been widely written about in books published in non-communist countries.

"If we like to read books from foreign countries, sooner or later, without realizing what had happened, you will be influenced by this," he said.

His remarks follow similar comments by Indonesian Defence Minister Benny Murdani on Wednesday, who said that Indonesia faced more internal than external threats and warned it was not yet the time to disregard communism.

Official on Foreign Investment Possibilities

BK2911094592 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 19 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The gradual implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) starting next January will not harm investment in Indonesia, said the chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board Sanyoto Sastrowardiyo.

Sanyoto told THE JAKARTA POST and SURABAYA POST yesterday that Indonesia is still attractive to investors because it offers low production costs. He made the remarks after speaking at a seminar on foreign investment at the World Trade Center.

"So, although we do not offer tax incentives as other ASEAN countries do, investors still come to our country," Sanyoto said, adding that labors' wages here are half of those of Malaysia and one third of Thailand's.

As of November 14, new foreign investment commitment in Indonesia had reached US $8.9 billion (Rp [rupiah] 18.25 trillion), surpassing last year's total investment commitment of $8.7 billon (Rp17.83 trillion), he said.

"And 1992 has not yet ended, so the figure will increase again," he said. "It proves that some analyses which predicted that the total investment commitment would fall are not right."

The rise of foreign investment commitment is partly caused by the reregistration of two giant projects, the Chandra Asri olefin center in Cilegon, West Java and the oil refinery in Tanjung Uban, Bintan Island, Riau with investment commitments of $1.6 billion (Rp 3.28 trillion) and $1.5 billion (Rp 3.07 trillion) respectively.

The two projects were included for the second year in a row following changes in their status from joint venture to fully foreign-owned projects.

Sanyoto said that Indonesia was still very competitive, even compared to China.

"In China, if we invest, we cannot take again the money easily because we have to reinvest, while here we do not have such a rule," he said.

The seminar, which ended yesterday, was held by the Lubis, Ganie and Surowijoyo law firm and Singapore's Drew and Napier law firms. Around 50 representatives from international companies, including those from Japan and Singapore, attended the seminar.

Laos

Leaders Exchange Greetings With Thai Leaders

President Greets Thai King

BK0512080192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 92

["Text" of message of congratulations from His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, the Great, of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of the latter's 65th birthday anniversary and concurrently the Thai National Day, 5 December 1992—dated not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the 65th birthday anniversary of Your Majesty and the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, all the Lao people throughout the country and I would like to take this opportunity to extend very high respect and best wishes to you.

May Your Majesty have happiness and longevity. May Thailand find growth and progress ever more and all the fraternal Thai people enjoy all happiness and prosperity.

I extremely wish that the friendship and good cooperation between the two brotherly and neighborly countries, Laos and Thailand, and their peoples will be steadily strengthened and flourish forever.

Minister Greets King's Birthday

BK0512095992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 92

["Text" of message of congratulations from Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, Thai foreign minister, on the occasion of the 65th birthday of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, and the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, 5 December]

[Text] On the occasion of the celebration of the 65th birthday of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, and through you to all the Thai people. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family good health and happiness and to wish all the Thai people progress and prosperity. I sincerely hope that the good relations of friendship and cooperation between our two brotherly and neighborly countries will continue to strengthen and expand with each passing day in the interests of both the Lao and Thai peoples, and for peace, security, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

Premier Greets Counterpart

BK0512100592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Dec 92

["Text" of message of congratulations from Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, on the occasion of the 65th birthday of King Phumiphon Adunyadet of the Kingdom of Thailand and Thai National Day, 5 December]

[Text] On the occasion of the 65th birthday of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, the Great, and the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], the Lao people, and in my own name, I would like to extend my respect and best wishes for happiness and prosperity to you and through you to the Thai Government and all the Thai people. I am confident that the good friendship and cooperation between our two brotherly and neighborly countries, which has been smoothly developed, will be steadily strengthened and expanded in response to the desires of the Lao and Thai peoples, and for peace and cooperation in the region and the world.

Phoun Sipaseut Attends Fete

BK0712070892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] On the evening of 5 December, Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, held a dinner reception at the Thai Embassy in Vientiane Capital on the occasion celebrating the 65th birthday of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The reception was honored by the presence of Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; ministers and deputy ministers; and a large number of invited high-level Lao authorities. Foreign diplomats of various friendly countries and personnel of international organizations' representative offices in the LPDR also attended the function.

Sihanouk Congratulates President on Election

BK0512140092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Greetings message from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of the State of Cambodia, to Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of your excellency's election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], I would like to extend greetings and best wishes to you. I wish your excellency success in performing your new task.

Your Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavan is a great patriot who has always struggled to liberate the country and build it into a civilized and prosperous country. I am convinced that under your excellency's leadership, the time-honored traditional relations of friendship and cooperation in many fields between the two countries and two peoples of Cambodia and Laos will be developed forever.

DPRK's Kim Il-song Sends Message

BK0612094592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Congratulatory message from Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, to Nouhak Phoumsavan on his election as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Government and people of Korea and in my own name, I would like to extend to your excellency my sincere congratulations and best wishes. I wish you great success in performing the tasks of developing Laos to become an independent, civilized, and prosperous country. May your excellency have good health and happiness. I am confident that the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of our two countries will further increase and develop consistently.

Kim Il-song Sends Message to Premier

BK0612110392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Congratulatory message from Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee, to Khamtai Siphandon on his election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and in my own name, I would like to extend greetings and best wishes to you, Comrade. I am confident that the relations of friendship and traditional cooperation between the two parties and the two peoples of Korea and Laos will continue to develop efficiently.

I wish you, Comrade, success in your noble duties and responsibilities for the development of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the progress and prosperity of the country.

Premier Receives Greetings From PRC's Jiang Zemin

BK0612112892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Congratulatory message from Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, to Khamtai Siphandon on his election as chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee—date not given]

[Text] On behalf of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, I would like to extend to you, comrade, my wholehearted congratulations. I wish you success in performing your new task. May friendship and cooperation between the two parties and Governments of China and Laos further improve and develop incessantly.

DPRK Sends National Day Greetings to Premier

BK0512095392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], has received a telegram of congratulations from Comrade Yong Hyongmuk, premier of the State Administration Council of the DPRK, on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR, 2 December 1992. The message reads:

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you, comrade. I feel confident that the existing relations of friendship and good cooperation between our two countries will be further increased and expanded in the future. I sincerely wish you, comrade, greater successes in your tasks, which are aimed at bringing progress and prosperity to the country, and good health.

Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister of the LPDR, also received a telegram of congratulations from Comrade Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, on the same occasion.

Burma Sends National Day Greetings to President

BK0612121792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the LPDR, has received a congratulatory message from H.E. General Than Shwe, Myanmar's [Burma] prime minister and chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council. On behalf of the Government and people of Myanmar and in his own name, Gen. Than Shwe extended his wholehearted congratulations and best wishes to H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan, and through him to all the Lao people.

Yeltsin Sends Message

BK0612130792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Congratulatory message from President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation to President Nouhak Phoumsavan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, LPDR, on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the establishment of the LPDR—date not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the LPDR's National Day, I would like to extend my wholehearted congratulations to you. I am confident that the strengthening and expanding of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation of mutual benefit between Russia and Laos conforms with the interests of the two countries and their peoples, as well as the tasks of maintaining peace and security in the Asia and Pacific region. I wish that the fraternal Lao people achieve success in implementing the cause of innovation, and that they have peace, happiness, and prosperity.

Leaders Visit Hospitals on National Day

BK0312130192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] At 0900 on 2 December, Lao party and government leaders visited many hospitals in Vientiane capital to greet patients there on the 17th founding anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice prime minister, and foreign affairs minister, on behalf of the party, government, and mass organizations, visited and greeted patients at Central Hospital No. 1. He wished them good health and a speedy recovery. At the same time, he also chatted with physicians and specialists at the hospital. He called on them to use their wisdom and to carry out their duties efficiently.

On the same occasion, Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, minister of education and sports; Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, and minister of national defense; Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, minister of economy, planning, and finance, also visited other hospitals in the following order: the Mahosot hospital, Hospital-103, and the 150-bed hospital. The staff of those hospital warm welcomed our leaders and also briefed them on their operations. The leaders conveyed the greetings and best wishes from the party Central Committee, the government, and mass organizations to the patients and presented them with flowers and gifts such as milk, sugar, and cookies.

Our leaders hailed the medical staff for their energy and wisdom in treating the patients, as this would enable them to have the good health to fulfill the policy of restructuring, especially in building the economic, cultural, and social foundations, defending the country, and making the country prosper.

Two Receive Jail Terms for Antirevolutionary Acts

BK0712050892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] In late November the Savannakhet Provincial People's Court handed down verdicts for two offenders who committed antirevolutionary actions. They are Bounphong Phaksavat, 30, citizen of Ban Ton Sikeo, Khanthabouli District, and Khaikeo, 21, citizen of Ban Peu Ngouan, Songkhon District, both from Savannakhet Province. The two suspects were ruled guilty of cooperating with a group of bad elements in carrying out counterrevolutionary armed activities that cause public disturbances.

The two men were arrested by local police officials on 4 May 1992. Through the legal procedures of investigation and interrogation and confessions by both suspects, the abovementioned provincial people's court therefore handed down the following verdicts, in accordance with Articles 62, 63, 68, and 79 of the Criminal Law: Bounphong Phaksavat was sentenced to eight years imprisonment, and Khaikeo was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Philippines

Abadia: Security Situation 'Vastly Improved'

HK0412104892 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 4 Dec 92 p 7

[Report by Frank Longid Jr.]

[Text] The national security situation has vastly improved because of the reduced capacity of the various rebel groups and the departure of U.S. forces from the country.

This was the assessment given by the Armed Forces [AFP] chief of staff, Gen. Lisandro Abadia, during a luncheon yesterday hosted by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Despite the military's failure to achieve strategic control over the communist insurgency, Abadia said the security situation had significantly improved recently.

The military's assessment of the security situation largely involved the developments in its efforts to contain the communist, military and Muslim rebellions.

Although the AFP assists the National Police, peace and order matters like kidnappings and other organized crimes are not a factor in its assessment of national security.

Abadia said "the relinquishment of the last American base to the Philippine government (marked) the end of an era and the begining of a new one without foreign troops in our land."

The growing sentiment among military officers in recent years has reportedly been that of dealing with the U.S. military establishment on equal footing.

The Robolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance]-Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Soldiers of the Filipino People]-Young Officers' Union, which groups military rebels, had repeatedly called for the dismantling of the U.S. bases in the country.

Abadia cited the "decline in the capacity of major threat groups," which include the communist, military and secessionist rebels, as one of the major reasons behind the improvement in the national security situation.

Recently, however, the military has admitted its failure to attain strategic control over the communists. Earlier, Abadia and other ranking military officers expressed confidence the AFP would reach its goal by the end of the year.

Communist Leader Denies Reports of NDF Split

HK0712050192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Jose Ma. [Maria] Sison, founding chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], has described as the handiwork of "psywar [psychological warfare] agents of the Ramos regime" the reported dissolution of the National Democratic Front [NDF] and his alleged falling out with former NDF chief Satur Ocampo.

In a faxed interview obtained by the INQUIRER, Sison told Manila-based German journalist Dietmar Henker that he was not aware of any rift within the NDF as alleged in some newspaper reports.

"The NDF is solid," Sison said. "The psywar agents of the Ramos regime keep on spreading intrigues. They issue slander sheets and plant stories against the NDF and the CPP."

"As far as I know, the NDF continues to exist and the CPP is prominently one of the allied organizations of the NDF," Sison said.

Ocampo, a former newsman and one of the rebel leaders released recently, himself denied there was any disagreement between him and Sison.

The reported rift within the NDF arose during a plenum of the CPP Central Committee in July which was attended by only eight out of 30 or so qualified cadres, according to a newspaper report (not the INQUIRER).

The report, quoting leftist and military intelligence sources, said the plenum reinstated Sison as CPP chairman. Sison reportedly lost the CPP chairmanship upon his capture in 1977; he was released from prison in 1986.

Twenty of those excluded from the plenum have initiated a petition demanding the resignation of the CPP leadership, the same report said.

The news report indicated a serious rift not only within the NDF but in the entire communist movement that perils the peace talks.

In the same interview, Sison reiterated the need for further exploratory talks between the government and the NDF to resolve what he called unresolved issues in the on-going peace process.

Sison said that it is unlikely that formal peace negotiations could start before the end of the year.

Now a political exile in the Netherlands, Sison said the NDF has been "desirous of resolving these (issues) with the other side."

On the government's claim that the NDF has made the release of political prisoners a precondition for peace talks, Sison clarified that no precondition has been made that "negates the character or purpose of peace negotiations."

"The release of political prisoners has been described by the NDF as a goodwill measure," Sison said. "In this regard, the Ramos regime has not shown enough goodwill. It has released so few political prisoners. Hundreds upon hundreds of them are still languishing in prison."

Sison said that the NDF's insistence on a "neutral venue" for the peace talks and an "impartial third party" as mediator, "are normal terms of serious peace negotiations."

The government's National Unification Commission has turned down the two NDF demands. Haydee Yorac, NUC chairman, has said she does not approve of such "excursions" as further exploratory talks in a foreign country.

But Sison recalled that the government "has agreed to these terms in negotiating with the Moro National Liberation Front."

"It (government) should agree to similar terms in negotiating with the NDF," he said.

Communist Rebels Reject NUC Proposals

HK0712052592 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Dec 92 p 15

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] National Democratic Front (NDF) leaders in The Hague have sidestepped 10 refinements to the Sept. 1 Hague Joint Declaration as proposed by the National Unification Commission (NUC) by calling for further exploratory talks on six related issues.

In a recent letter to NUC commissioner Rep. Jose Yap, NDF vice-chairman Luis Jalandoni dismissed an official Government communication last Oct. 27 which contained the NUC's proposed refinements as an "apparent case of ambiguity and evasion." Mr. Jalandoni hinted the NDF required a more direct high-level representation, saying: "we noticed it was Executive Secretary Edelmiro Amante alone who signed the communication ... without the explicit statement it was with the authority of the President."

Instead, the NDF has called for further "official exploratory talks" in the Netherlands on six other issues, namely: "a mutually agreed" Christmas and New Year ceasefire; the "mutual release of prisoners ... before Christmas;" the NUC's proposed refinements to the Hague Joint Declaration; the sequencing of topics in these substantive agenda; the establishment, cooperation, methods of work and meetings of reciprocal working committees, as well as the "venue and other modalities for working committee meetings and further exploratory talks and negotiation panels."

Significantly, the NDF sidestepped the NCU's 10 proposed refinements, namely: electoral reforms; political principles for the operation of political parties and organizations; broader and more effective enforcement of human rights principles; dismantling of all private armies and strict implementation of relevant laws; improvements in the administration of justice; protection of the environment; socioeconomic reforms, provisions for victims of internal armed conflicts; economic components of national unification as well as the disposition of forces and armaments.

The NUC had earlier proposed the aforementioned refinements to the four-point agenda established by the Hague Joint Declaration. In sum, the four chronologically arranged points were: human rights and international humanitarian law, socioeconomic reforms, political and constitutional reforms, as well as the cessation of hostilities and disposition of forces.

The same NDF communication also denounced Government's actions in six areas, namely: the alleged "intensification of 'total war' ... in the Cordillera, Bicol, Samar, Panay, Negros, Zamboanga and Surigao," Government's alleged "intensification of psychological warfare" by encouraging localized consultations, peace talks and ceasefires; granting access to "U.S. troops, warplanes and warships to Subic and so many other bases and ports;" the "legitimization of foreign debts incurred by the Marcos dictatorship including the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant ... fully paying all foreign debts including fraudulent debts;" power rate increases; as well as government's alleged inaction on the release of 600 political prisoners and the "abrogation of repressive laws like Presidential Decree 1866" (illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of rebellion).

NDF Suggests Holding Peace Talks in Country

HK0712054092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 Dec 92 pp 1, 7

[Text] Lucena City—Former newsman Satur Ocampo, spokesman of the National Democratic Front (NDF), political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), raised yesterday the possibility of holding the formal peace talks here to end the 24-year-old communist insurgency and attain national peace. The NDF had earlier insisted that the peace negotiations be conducted in another country.

"But if the climate here is conducive to settling the political conflict, the NDF leadership might reconsider its earlier position," Ocampo said. He stressed, however, that he is only an emissary of the NDF trying to help promote unity and peace among Filipinos. The recently released CPP leader was here as one of the speakers on the "Forum on Peace and Amnesty," arranged by the Quezon Tayabas Association [QTA], a big organization here of professionals and businessmen seeking to promote peace all over the country.

Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Jose U. Ong had asked Paranaque revenue district officer Nonoy Miravalles, QTA president, for his group to arrange the forum to help promote "unity, peace, and economic prosperity." To facilitate the peace process, Ocampo said he asked President Ramos to release over 500 political prisoners, who are on a hungry [as published] strike to protest their continued detention, in the spirit of Christmas and reconciliation. Ocampo said the President should follow the example set by his predecessor, Corazon Aquino, who ordered the unconditional release of political detainees, following her assumption into office as a gesture of goodwill.

He also denied reports of a rift among various factions under the NDF umbrella on how to proceed with the peace talks. He said the NDF recognizes only former priest Luis Jalandoni, who is in The Netherlands, as the sole negotiator for the group, and Rep Jose Yap of Tarlac as the government's representative, based on an earlier agreement.

He said field commanders of the New People's Army (NPA), the fighting arm of the CPP, are not allowed to hold any peace negotiations, except to meet with local officials on local issues. He said if formal talks push through, they will likely start in the second semester of 1993 because of a delay in the preparation of positions papers and "talking points" among the three major revolutionary forces—the communist CPP-NPA-NDF rebels, the Reform the Armed Forces-Young Officers' Union (RAM-YOU), and the Muslim secessionists.

He said the National Unification Commission (NUC) sought an extension until March to complete its regional and national consultations and the preparations for the general amnesty and peace programs. "We are just in the exploratory stage, and if formal negotiations are to be conducted, negotiating panels and working committees have to be set up after the NUC has completed all the paperwork," he said.

For its part, he said the NDF has presented a 10-point agenda for negotiations based on mutual respect for human rights, social, economic, political, and constitutional reforms; end to all hostilities, and the disposition of forces of both sides. The other speakers on the forum included Rep. [Representative] Marical Punzalan of the second district of Quezon, who represented Rep. Jose Yap, who was unable to attend the meeting due to pressing engagements; Philippine National Police Director Rex Piad of Quezon; Lt. Col. Gil Blanco, spokesman of the Southern Luzon Command, and Ed Abcede, a human rights leader. Abcede summed up the messages of the other panelists as he said "it is high time that all Filipinos, regardless of political persuasion, unite to attain peace and progress."

Military Captures 'Large' NPA Camp Near Manila

HK0612070192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The military has captured a large New People's Army [NPA] camp at the boundaries of Rizal, Bulacan, and Quezon. At the same time, the military has stepped up its operations against the communist rebels by sending more ground troops to the area. The military operation began on 30 November with the goal of capturing the camp, which was being used by 200 to 300 rebels in the area.

Colonel Norberto Perera, Composite Air Support Force commander in the National Capital Region [NCR], said that airlift operations from Camp Aguinaldo will continue. They are using four Huey helicopters, supported by two M-520 attack helicopter gunships from the 15th Strike Wing. Manuel Rommel Silva, one of the pilots of the Huey helicopters, said they are finding it difficult to land in the area due to the strong wind and rains in the area.

The combined forces of the NCR Defense Command Security Battalion under Colonel Roberto Jaymalin and 9th Marine Battalion under Major Romeo Abayan captured the NPA camp near the village of Santa Inez. The rebels, however, have escaped, requiring additional soldiers to be sent to the area. Elements of the 11th Marine Battalion were thus airlifted to the area as reinforcements, along with such provisions as rice and canned goods to enable the Marines to pursue the rebels.

Several soldiers have been evacuated by helicopter after contracting malaria during their almost week-long operation in the area. Several soldiers from the combat site said the operation could last another week before all rebels are driven out of the area. The encounter site is only 30 minutes away by helicopter.

Strengthens Force in Area

HK0712085192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The military has deployed an additional 1,000 soldiers in the boundaries of Bulacan, Rizal, and Quezon. It has strengthened its force in the area to totally flush out about 500 New People's Army [NPA] rebels from their training camps located in these borders.

It was learned that military operations began last Friday [4 December] after residents in Sta. Ines, Tanay said that there are NPA rebels in the borders of Bulacan, Rizal, and Quezon collecting revolutionary taxes.

Intelligence reports have indicated that the Melito Glor Command's principal group Command, which was the first to encamp in Mt. Banahaw, has now relocated to the abovementioned provincial boundaries.

Kidnaped Missionary 'Could' Be Freed by Christmas

HK0612075692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0700 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Dec 6 (AFP)—A senior military official said here Sunday that American Protestant missionary Augustine Fraszcak, kidnapped by Moslem gunmen near here in October, could be freed before Christmas. "I think we will be able to secure the release of the hostages before Christmas," Lieutenant General Gumersindo Yap, the military chief for the southern Philippines, told reporters.

Moslem gunmen seized Frasczak in the nearby southern island of Basilan on October 18 and demanded a 200,000 dollar ransom. A Filipino doctor, Nilo Barandino, his wife and seven children were also abducted by Moslem gangsters on the island last month and are being held for a 100,000 peso (4,000 dollar) ransom. Yap said the military was coordinating with civilian negotiators, who include Moslem leaders, and government officials to secure the release of the hostages before December 25. He did not elaborate.

Japan Helps Draft Cebu, Central Luzon Plans

HK0412084492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Dec 92 p B-2

[Text] Japan and the Philippines have agreed to bring bilateral efforts to bear on the development master plans for Cebu and West Central Luzon.

The Department of Trade and Industry [DTI] and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have agreed to conduct studies and formulate the master plans.

DTI Undersecretary Tomas I. Alcantara said that the studies which will be financed through a JICA grand will be completed by December next year.

Basing from the total cost in the formulation of a master plan for the Calabarzon (Carite, Laguna, Rigal Quezon

Provinces) area, which was also undertaken by JICA, Alcantara said, it will cost another $3 million for both Cebu and West Central Luzon.

Alcantara said that the master plan for Cebu seeks to prepare and integrate development for the entire Cebu province until year 2010.

The plan also considers all areas of development including population distribution and the protection of environment.

Alcantara further said that the study also focuses efforts in attracting investors in areas which lag behind in development from Metro Cebu.

The plan will also adopt measures which will allow other industries to locate their plants in the western side facing Negros thereby decongesting Metro Cebu.

Alcantara further said that the study will involve the participation of the local government units, the non-government council to oversee the implementation of the project.

Cebu was chosen as the next site of development because just like Calabarzon, the area has already attracted investors, Alcantara said.

We want to ride on that momentum while other master plans for other provinces are still being prepared, he said.

On West Central Luzon, Alcantara said that its development is timely considering the Subic Bay project is already in full swing.

"We have to get things going where the private factor is already interested," Alcantara stressed.

The master plan for this area will start early next year and is expected to be completed in October 1993.

Alcantara further said that the Coodinating Council of the Philippine Assistance Program (CCPAP) is coordinating the preparation of the studies on the country's 16 poorest provinces.

The CCPAP is farming out these projects to the USAID, which is heavily involved in the program, and the European Community through their official development assistance as a group.

Other EC-member countries such as France and Belgium are expected to participate as individuals.

Thailand

Spokesman Briefs on Disputed Hill, UN Flights

BK0412152992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Sakthip Krairoek, Foreign Ministry spokesman, reported that a meeting of the Thai-Burmese Regional Border Committee is scheduled to be held in Rangoon on 8 December. It will seek to solve the dispute over Hill 491. Lieutenant General Yingyot Chotphimai, commander of the 3d Army Region, will lead the Thai delegation for talks which will be restricted to the issue of Hill 491 only. Thailand wants Burma to vacate the hill. The occupation of Hill 491 by the Burmese forces and the flying of the Burmese flag constitute a violation of Thai sovereignty. The spokesman said that at the meeting between the Thai ambassador and Burmese authorities in Rangoon, Burma made it known that Thailand would get what it wants in the next meeting.

Concerning UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] flights over Thailand to Cambodia, the spokesman said the problem has been alleviated. The two parties accepted the regulations of each side, and Thailand has already given authorization to UNTAC to fly shipments to Cambodia via Thailand.

Policies on Burma, Cambodia Under Consideration

BK0512025192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Growing international pressure on Thailand over its policies toward Cambodia and Burma is apparently beginning to take effect, at least to the extent that concerned government agencies are starting to rethink the nation's stance.

According to a government source, they are now discussing a plan to reorient government policy towards the two countries, especially with Thailand's reputation in tatters where the world community is concerned.

"There is anxiety that Thailand could not stand forever against the increasing protest from the international community against its trade policy with these two nations," said the official at National Security Council (NSC).

Thailand has now become a prime target for both internal and external criticism for its overweighted economic interest in Cambodia and Burma that played a role in prolonging the wars there.

The heaviest fire was directed at Thailand's reluctance to comply with the United Nations punitive trade measures against the Khmer Rouge as those could hurt Thai businessmen trading with the Maoist group. Domestically the most troulesome was a fresh row between Thailand and Burma over Hill 491 to which both laid claims.

A series of brainstorming sessions among top policy making agencies including the National Security Council, Foreign Ministry and Interior Ministry concluded that the government should give top priority to its long-term interest in the two nations, which was the restoration of peace there, said the official who requested anonymity.

"We long for national reconciliation among the four Cambodian factions and negotiation between Rangoon and the insurgent ethnic minority groups," the officiQl said.

He said the government should not place emphasis only on short-term gains which mostly benefitted groups that had vested interests.

However, the government had prepared a contingent plan to cope with the impact from the UN economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge on Thai businessmen trading with the faction according to the source.

According to the plan, said the same official, the Interior was preparing relax its regulation on transportation cut logs from Cambodia at temporary crossing points to get them out as fast as possible.

At the same time, he said authorities concerned were looking for new areas Thailand for gem mines as well as new jobs to accommodate tens of thousands of workers who would return from inside Khmer Rouge zones when the ban on the precious stones take effect.

Monday's UN resolution urged Cambodia's Supreme National Council to consider issuing a moratorium on the export of minerals and gems.

Gem traders in Trat province who would be badly affected by the United Nations' move have long been seeking permission from the army to open up some of the security zones in the border areas for mining.

The rugged terrain, densely covered by jungle, five kilometres away from the border with Cambodia has been known to be gem-rich but was reserved for the military as it was considered to have strategic value.

Military To Insist on Burmese Withdrawal From 491

BK0512041192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The Thai military will insist during talks with Rangoon next week that Burma withdraw all its troops from Hill 491, Supreme Commander Woranat Aphichari said yesterday.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat confirmed that a high-level military delegation to be led by Third Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Yingyot Chotepimai will travel to Rangoon on December 8 to hold talks with their Burmese counterparts to settle the territorial dispute.

The talks will be the last at military-level after which the Armed Forces will hand over the issue to the Foreign Ministry, ACM Woranat said.

The Supreme Commander said the Thai military's position on the conflict is clear: Burma must withdraw all its troops from Hill 491.

"If the talks next week fail, the military will await the Government's order on the future course of action," ACM Woranat said.

The Armed Forces chief told reporters that Thailand should not pin too much hope on the talks as the outcome could be both "positive or negative."

"How can we know what's on the mind of our negotiating partners," ACM Woranat said, adding he himself is expecting very little from the talks.

He said the Thai negotiation team comprises representatives from various military units including the Fourth Army Region in charge of Chumphon Province where the disputed Hill 491 is situated.

Army chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit confirmed that Burma had beefed up troops at Hill 491 but added that the reinforcements were made some time ago.

But the general said battles cannot be won only with the use of a large number of troops. The more the number of troops mobilised, the more logistic support will be required and this will not be viable in the long run.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said he is being kept abreast with the latest developments on the dispute by the Defence Minister.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Chswalit Yongchaiyut said the ministry would be able to evacuate villagers in the vicinity of Hill 491—in Chumphon's Tha Sae District—if the situation turns dangerous.

Gen Chawalit said about 90,000-100,000 people are living within the 15-km radius of the hill, occupied by Burmese troops since March this year.

The Burmese troops, he said, have from time to time recruited villagers ip batches of 10-20 to work as porters.

Gen Chawalit said the Burmese invitation to send a Thai military delegation to go to Rangoon to discuss the matter indicated that Rangoon wanted to talk rather than use force to solve the problem.

He said Burma, in extending the invitation, may have already found a way out, though its stand on the issue is not yet clear.

But he was optimistic that the problem could be solved without use of force.

Gen Chawalit said Burma may have already realised that the hill belongs to Thailand, otherwise it would not have invited the Thai delegation to Rangoon.

He said the dispute over Hill 491 is different from Ban Rom Klao—the scene of a brief but bloody battle between Thai and Laotian forces a few years ago—before both sides resorted to dialogue to end the war over the contentious border hamlet.

Gen Chawalit said aerial photographs show that Burmese troops have built 30 bunkers and fortified them with machineguns.

King Gives Advice on Border Conflict With Burma

BK0512042592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] His Majesty the King yesterday suggested that Thailand and Burma either withdraw from the disputed Hill 491 or reach an agreement to develop the area jointly, to put an end to their potentially explosive territorial conflict.

The royal advice came during the annual informal address to more than 8,000 well-wishers representing the Thai people in various walks of life who turned up at the dusidalai pavilion to express birthday wishes to His Majesty.

In an hour-long talk highlighted by humour and wisdom, the King said the problem at Hill 491 is a case that may lead to disunity among the Thais if they do not think before acting.

The King said that both Thailand and Burma have laid claim to Hill 491, although the geographical reality is that the hill belongs to both countries as it serves as a boundary between the two nations.

His Majesty joked: "If a burmese stands on the highest peak of the hill, we will have to slice the man in half. If he pokes his head into our side of the hill, we can chop his head off. But if one of us extends an arm into the Burmese side, they can also cut off our arm. So what will we do then?"

The King said Hill 491 is right on the border and the hilltop is very wide, making it difficult for any person to pinpoint the actual borderline between Thailand and Burma.

Thailand has the problem of unclear boundary lines with all its neighbours.

Some other civilised countries solve this problem by leaving a space in between the two countries which belongs to neither side.

In some European countries, houses are located on the boundary line with one door opening to one country and another onto the other.

"This happens without anybody going crazy about who has a claim on it," said His Majesty.

Under such a situation, an agreement is necessary either to leave the land vacant and free of any activity, or to develop it jointly for mutual interests.

His Majesty joked that if Thailand and Burma cannot reach an agreement, both sides should withdraw from Hill 491 and pummel it with artillery shells until it turns into Hill 490 (four-nine-zero. Zero or soon in Thai means "valueless" or "vanish").

Such an agreement would benefit both Thai and Burmese soldiers as they could use the hill as an artillery firing range, hs majesty remarked.

The King said he made the suggestion in view of the fact that if allowed to continue, the conflict over Hill 491 could lead the Thais to quarrel among themselves.

Instead of becoming a law between two countries, the problem may cause a war within the country, His Majesty commented.

"This is undesirable. We could end up losing Hill 491 if we start quarrelling among themselves," the King said.

His Majesty said the problem had to be tackled at its root.

If Thais can solve the problem in this manner other nations will then realise that the people in the countries of this region are intelligent.

The King said he had pointed out to village scouts who were granted an audience two days earlier that Thailand has more advantages than other countries in that it is peaceful.

Hundreds of thousands of people in countries in other continents have died from global conflicts. This is something that should not be allowed to occur in Thailand.

Thailand has had this type of problem before and it should not be allowed to recur.

To prevent this, the King commented that all Thais must think before they act.

Thais should stop to think before making comments, so that mistakes can be averted, he said.

His Majesty said he had made the request because the news about the troubles of other countries had brought him sdness.

"It will be good for Thailand to remain a peaceful country" he said.

The King called on all Thais to put their thoughts and acts together to help develop the country and to "let bygones be bygones".

"Some people may disagree with this. But I am not suggesting we forget. We must learn our lessons," he commented.

The King added that everybody's undertakings always bear an impact on that person later.

However, other persons should not use these undertakings as an excuse to set up preconditions.

Thais should act constructively so that everyone benefits in the end.

He said this does not mean that Thais should not argue. They can argue as much as they wish, as long as the argment is based on reason.

His Majesty said he believed that the persons who were given the audience will be able to read his message.

"I'd like to ask that (the Thais) be practical and not destructive in their acts," he added.

Paper Advises Patience on Burmese Border Issue

BK0612020692 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 6 Dec 92 p 22

[Editorial: "Adopt patient approach to resolve border dispute with Burma"]

[Text] For the past week, the coalition government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has had its hands full. On the one hand, the coalition faced continuous criticism from the Opposition over its handling and response to the United Nations sanctions against the Khmer Rouge. Meanwhile, criticism has also built up over the Burmese incursion into Thai territory and occupation of Hill 491 in Tha Sae District of Chumphon Province.

Opposition MPs have been quite vocal on these issues. On the UN sanctions, for instance, we hear views saying that the coalition should have done more to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process. We also hear one view saying that the government could have avoided the partial sanctions if Thailand had worked more closely with the United Nations. There is sufficient reason to support both these views.

But the views of certain Opposition members and even some senior military officers of what the government should do to resolve the Burmese incursion in Chumphon Province appear to lack reason and patience.

Former prime minister and Chat Phatthana Party leader Gen Chatchai Chunhawan has challenged the government on the issue. He has also said that Thai troops should be deployed to drive out the Burmese. Senior military officers have also expressed readiness to use force against the Burmese.

There's no doubt that as Thais we love and cherish the territorial integrity of this nation. The people and government will most certainly make the sacrifices to defend its borders from external threats. But territorial and border disputes with neighbours are common and have always been a problem past governments have had to handle, especially since we share common borders with a number of countries which run into hundreds of kilometres and where in some places demarcation is unclear.

Thailand has been able to resolve territorial disputes with Burma in the past such as the Ruak and Sai river disputes in Tak and Chiang Rai respectively. Admittedly, these disputes did not involve the deployment of troops but it clearly illustrates that with patience and perseverance, neighbours can resolve their differences.

Considering the fact that Burmese troops have occupied Hill 491 since February this year, some have questioned the motive behind the comments of Gen Chatchai and senior military officers. Some say that Gen Chatchai's comment may be driven by political considerations while those of senior military officers may be aimed at regaining lost prestige and honour as a result of the military crackdown in May.

No one is questioning the loyalty of Gen Chatchai and senior military officers to this country and their statements may certainly be driven by the love they have for this country's territonal integrity. But under the present circumstances, it is more reasonable to adopt a more patient approach and the advice of His Majesty the King certainly reinforces this approach.

His Majesty's advice goes beyond matters at the border but clearly points out the ramifications to national unity if we don't use prudence in our future action. His Majesty not only urges caution and patience, but also suggests options of how the government can resolve this border dispute in a most amicable and beneficial manner for both countries.

Members of the Opposition, the Government, the Armed Forces and this country is once again fortunate to be able to rely on prudent Royal judgement of His Majesty the King who has been able to repeatedly help this country overcome numerous problems, large and small, in years past and we all hope, for many more years to come.

Senior Officials To Follow King's Advice on Burma

BK0612023892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Dec 92 p A1-A2

[Text] Senior government officials and military top brass yesterday said His Majesty the King's advice to seek a peaceful solution to the simmering conflict over a hill in Chumphon province, should be taken as a "guideline" by all Thais.

Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said the government is awaiting the outcome of an urgent meeting of the Thai-Burmese Regional Border Committee scheduled for next Tuesday in Rangoon before taking further action over the disputed hill 491 in Tha Sae district.

It was kind of the King to comment on the conflict. Everybody should take the King's advice as a guideline in dealing with the dispute," Chawalit said.

The King said on Friday that traditionally, border conflicts could be solved by declaring disputed areas as "no-man's land" or by jointly surveying them.

His Majesty's statement was made before hundreds of government officials, politicians and dignitaries gathered at the Chitlada Palace to mark his 65th birthday.

"Traditionally, when there are border disputes, agreements can be made that areas in question [can] belong to either side," the King said. "Both sides should agree that they will not carry out any activities there. Or if there is going to be any activity, both sides must do it together."

The dispute over the hill, to which both sides have laid claims, has raised fears that it might deteriorate into a border war between the two nations.

Chawalit said that Thailand and Burma have already reached an understanding and have agreed to discuss the issue next Tuesday.

"The two countries have already agreed to sit down and discuss the conflict. If [they] don't do so, the conflict then should then be regarded as a serious one," Chawalit said.

The authorities concerned in the disputed hill are awaiting the results of the RBC meeting in which the cochairmen of the RBC, Third Region Army Commander Lt Gen Yingyot Chotiphimai and Burma's Eastern Region Commander Maj Gen Maung Aye, would seek a solution to the problem.

Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kan Phimanthip meanwhile said that negotiation is the best way for the moment, adding his army will wait for a government order after Tuesday's meeting.

Responding to reports that Burmese troops had built more bunkers on the hill, Kan said it was their affair but Thailand has in mind a plan of its own. He did not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Police Director General Gen Sawat Amonwiwat said that there are about 400 border patrol police manning posts close to hill 491, but no order to deploy more men has been made.

Sawat said the Thai Army would be responsible for deciding when to launch an operation and the police are ready to comply with it.

National Security Council Secretary General Gen Charn Kunlawanit said that resorting to armed confrontation was the last step, following diplomatic and political negotiations, in handling any border conflict.

Chumphon Governor Prayun Promchan has called a meeting today of about 1,000 families from four villages close to the disputed hill to explain an evacuation plan if a border war erupts.

An informed source said that according to the plan, the villagers will be relocated to a school which is about 80 kilometres from the border. Routes from the disputed hill would be improved to facilitate the evacuation plan, he added.

Meanwhile, the operations centre for paratroopers mobilized near the hill yesterday was moved to a new area. The former centre was considered to be in a perilous position.

The source said that a group of border patrol police from Nakhon Si Thammarat yesterday was sent to the district to relieve the officers stationed there.

Meanwhile in Ranong province, a senior official of a private fishing association said yesterday that Bt [baht] 10 billion fishing industry would be hit badly if Thailand went to war.

"Currently, a total of nine fishing companies operate an aggregate of about 300 boats in Burmese territorial waters," said Ranong Fishing Association chairman Rian Mahaphanthip.

Hostilities, if they break out between the neighbouring countries, would only succeed in damaging both sides, Rian said, adding, "Burmese authorities would forfeit 'royalties' amounting to some Bt100,000 they now collect each month from Thai trawlers.

Rangers Deployed Near Hill 491 To Aid Evacuation

BK0612135792 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] The coordination among various agencies to solve the dispute over Hill 491 is proceeding well, and it is expected that by 8 December, the date scheduled for a meeting with the Burmese, all questions will be answered. Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak said the following to newsmen:

[Begin recording] [Wichit] The foreign minister explained recently in the parliament that this kind of dispute may be solved quickly or quite slowly—in several years. We will have to exercise patience because the problem involves two countries.

[Unidentified newsman] Have the Burmese not shown a sign of softening their position in lowering their flag?

[Wichit] You will have to ask the Burmese about what their position is. [end recording]

The latest activity is that four companies of ranger volunteers from their base in Surat Thani were given an order yesterday to deploy near Hill 491 to assist in evacuation of the local people if the situation warrants.

Rangers Rush To Protect Border With Burma

BK0712060792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Chiang Mai—Rangers have closed in on the border in Mae Ai and Fang districts as fighting between drug kingpin Khun Sa's Muang Tai Army and the Burmese-backed United Wa State Army has resumed after a year-long interval, police said.

Two ranger companies have been deployed near the border to keep the two warring factions from intruding on Thai territory. Khun Sa and the Wa rebels had not fought for about a year until two battalions of Burmese troops closed in on the border recently police said.

Some 4000 Khun Sa rebels occupying Doi Lang border hill, opposite Mae Ai, exchanged gunfire with some 2,000 Wa guerrillas, backed by Burmese government forces, for about four hours on Saturday night.

Casualty estimates were not available.

Meanwhile, Border Patrol Police, with the help of two bomb-sniffing dogs, cleared a border village in Fang of land mines over the weekend.

Around Ban Lan reservoir, three kilometres from the border, police found and disposed of two mines which may have been laid either by Khun Sa's men or Wa guerrillas.

A villager lost his legs after stepping on a mine and others have killed cattle.

Insom Kaeomanipleng, the puyaiban [head] of Ban Lan village, which has some 200 families, called on authorities to seal off the border to keep the warring factions from laying mines on Thai soil.

Ministry To Seek Logging Extension in Cambodia

BK0712010192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Dec 92 p 17

[Text] The Commerce Ministry will ask the Foreign Ministry to negotiate with the United Nations for Thais to be allowed to take logs from Khmer Rouge areas for an additional six months to June.

A Commerce Ministry source said the proposal emerged at a joint meeting of the National Security Council and Commerce, Foreign and Interior ministries to discuss the impact of UN sanctions.

He said the meeting suggested Customs clearance of logs should be done in Thailand to enable loggers to take out as much as possible within the new deadline.

The forest concessions to Thais in Khmer Rouge area are estimated to be worth more than 10,000 million baht. Three to five years would be required to complete using these concessions.

The source said the UN resolution to apply economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge at the end of this month will have a large impact on Thai investors particularly foresters.

"If negotiations with the United Nations are successful, the losses for Thai investors will be reduced. But it depends on the Foreign Ministry's efforts," the source said.

He said consumer goods trade estimated to be worth 600 million baht a month will also be affected but not in Phnom Penh held areas.

A high-ranking Cambodian official last week told Thai Deputy Commerce Minister Phaithun Khaeothong that business between the two countries can still operate despite the UN resolution on the Khmer Rouge.

The official said if Thai investors want any Cambodian regulations to be reviewed they should make submissions now.

Prospects Along Thai-Cambodian Border Viewed

BK0712051592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Dec 92 p A2

[Article by Nikon Chanprom and Kulachada Chaiphiphat: "Villagers along border face the unknown"]

[Text] The UN peacekeepers are engaging in a dangerous game with the Khmer Rouge which could prove costly to Thai villagers along the Thai-Cambodian border.

The lives and properties of these people, who will directly bear the brunt of the UN sanctions, will need to be protected by the Thai government much more than the interests of business operators.

After the signing of the Paris peace accord for Cambodia last October, and with the phased repatriation of 300,000 Cambodian refugees, cross border activities including trade with all four warring factions were made easier. Crime rates also decreased as authorities concerned relaxed their border controls.

With the imminent UN trade sanctions to prod the Khmer Rouge back into the peace process, and the maoist group's determination to use force as a trump card, the resumption of war that in the past has ruined the lives of Thai villagers seems unavoidable in the next six months.

UN resolution 792, calling on countries to ban log imports from the stubborn Khmer Rouge by Dec 31, and to cease oil exports to them, compels the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to establish all necessary checkpoints to enforce the sanctions. It also urges consultations with neighbouring countries, especially Thailand, on establishment and operation.

Border authorities, who anticipate a surge in border crime after the UN trade sanctions are imposed, point out that where those UNTAC posts would be set up should take into account the real situation along the Thai-Cambodian border.

In briefings during a border tour last week with Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngemmuen, the spate of border crimes such as robberies, killings and smuggling of war weapons were highlighted. The crimes reportedly are concentrated in border areas in the southeastern provinces and Prachin Buri, which are adjacent to the captured sites of four Cambodian warring factions straddling the frontier in Cambodia.

The border areas in the eastern provinces of Chanthaburi and Trat, which overlook mostly Khmer Rouge zones, are relatively peaceful.

Thailand's four southeastern provinces of Buri Ram, Si Sa Ket, Surin and Ubon Ratchathani, two eastern provinces of Trat and Chanthaburi and one central province of Prachin Buri fomm a 700-km frontier of rugged mountains and forest with Cambodia.

Border authorities say the checkpoints should not be concentrated solely in Khmer Rouge zones but spread throughout Thailand's southeastern provinces. "The UN security beef-up in the Khmer Rouge zones could create security loophole in the others," they said.

They said spans of mountainous terrain and dense jungles would pose major obstacle and challenge for the UN peacekeepers in enforcing the sanction. Currently UNTAC checkpoints could only concentrate near the accessible routes.

Given UN inexperience in these areas and the few accessible routes, the sanctions would be difficult to enfor effectively, said the authorities.

Buri Ram authorities said that since January there have been seven robberies and abductions of Thai residents by Cambodian bandits and about seven failed attempts to smuggle war weapons, including AK-92s, rocket launchers and automatic rifles into Thailand.

The province's Lahan Sai District opposite the former strongholds of the Sihanoukist Army (in Ampil, Sie Reap province) forms a 47-km frontier with Cambodia with 15 crossings, mostly paved. They include two temporary crossing points for logging trucks

P.T. Eastern Premier Co Ltd has secured a three-year logging contract which began last January. The company will until Dec 5 bring in a total of 5,000 logs, or more than 10,000 cubic metres against the allowed quota of 450,000 cubic metres.

In Surin province, opposite the Sihanoukist Army-controlled province of Samrot, Chong Chom is a major passage for smuggled weapons from Cambodia to Burma. This illegal activity was reportedly carried out despite the presence of about 400 UNTAC personnel.

Provincial authorities said that during the past two months, police have seized about three tonnes of war weapons smuggled from Cambodia.

About 25 kilometres inside Cambodia at Baan Kuan Kian is the headquarters of the Sihanoukist 9th Regiment. Only one per cent of the Sihanoukist army personnel here have gone to UN-supervised areas since the UN-brokered peace agreement's second phase of cantonment and disarmament began in June. The Sihanoukists are working in conjunction with the UN peacekeepers to guard the outlet in Cambodia. The Thai side was manned by a unit of border patrol police.

Opposite Chong Chom outlet is Thailand's biggest logging venture in Cambodia, which involves 10 logging companies. A joint venture between Thai and Japanese investors, T.J.R. Co. is the biggest of these.

Some log contracts were granted by the Khmer Rouge which shared some of the Sihanoukist's captured sites.

A border patrol police source said despite the quite peaceful situation, there were frequent infiltrations of Khmer Rouge forces into Sihanoukist zones in the areas near Chong Chom Samrot.

Also needing attention are the area opposite Si Sa Ket province, which all together has 34 crossings along the frontier of Kantharalak, Khu Khan and Khun Harn districts. But a mobiliization of troops, tanks and armoured tanks could only be conducted through a few outlets including Chong Praphalai Chong Sa Ngam and Chong Samrot.

Opposite these districts are the logging concession areas of B.L.P logging company which entered into three-year contracts with Heng Samrin last year. But the mostly rugged terrain of these outlets makes the transportation of logs impossible. The company instead uses Chong A-arn Ma outlet in Ubon Ratchathani.

Internal Security sources in Si Sa Ket said Khmer Rouge forces were active in the areas opposite these three districts to try to cut the supply routes of the Heng Samrin forces stationed in Pra Vihear province opposite Kantharalak.

"It is a sign that the Khmer Rouge are preparing major warfare against Heng Samrin," the source said.

Frequent problems here were illegal workers, robbery and abduction of villagers, as well as the smuggling of herds and illegal opium cultivation. Another problem is land mines. So far, five people have been killed and 21 injured by mines.

Ubon Ratchathani, the northernmost of the southeastern provinces, is another point where the UN should concentrate.

Na Reuy District is the conjunction where Thailand, Laos and Cambodia meet at the so called "Emerald Triangle".

There is a major outlet, called Chong Anma, for shipping logs from the Heng Samrin and Khmer Rouge concession areas. UN peacekeepers have a station there already. B.L.P. has built a 34-km route linking Pra Vihear province to Chong Anma, but not a single log has been moved yet.

Chuan Discusses Internal Peacekeeping Bill

BK0412141692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai granted an interview to newsmen at parliament this afternoon after the meeting of the Senate. At today's meeting, the senate decided to appoint a special committee to study the draft bill to revoke the Internal Peacekeeping Command Act before a final vote is to be made. Chuan said it is the Senate's right to set up a committee to study the bill before voting on it. At this stage, the Senate still has not rejected the bill in principle, and we have to listen to its views. Chuan said the government insists upon revoking the act. Personally, he said he is not worried about the attitude of the senators as the Senate's duty is to screen laws.

52 Released During Crown Prince's Visit to SRV

BK0412064892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Thai fishermen who were released during Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon's visit to Vietnam will return to Thailand tomorrow. Sakthip Krairoek, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, said the 52 Thai fishermen who were released will be accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan in an audience with the crown prince. Sakthip said Vietnam still holds another 30 Thai fishermen in its custody and noted that the Foreign Ministry will continue to work for their release.

Minister on 'Unresolved Issues' With Saudi Arabia

BK3011015792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Nov 92 p 7

[Text] Saudi Arabia has shown a readiness to negotiate with Thailand on issues which have strained relations between the two countries Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said yesterday.

Dr Surin said unresolved issues include the mysterious disappearance of a Saudi businessman a month after the murder of three Saudi diplomats in early 1990.

Police have made no progress on the case.

The minister said another case which has yet to be cleared up is the theft of jewellery from the palace of a Saudi prince by Kriangkrai Techamong, a Thai worker, in 1989.

Kriangkrai, who took about 500 million baht's worth of jewellery was later arrested and is serving a five-year jail term. The recovered items of jewellery were returned to Saudi Arabia, but it was later found that some had been replaced with fakes.

If the Thai authorities concerned cooperate seriously, these issues can be resolved, Dr Surin said.

The result of the unresolved cases is that Thai workers have not been issued with re-entry visas and the employment of new Thai workers has been suspended.

Dr Surin said the Foreign and Interior ministries have begun contacting the Saudi Arabian embassy in Thailand in the hope of clearing up the unresolved problems, and Saudi Arabia has shown its intention of negotiating with Thailand.

He said Thailand is ready to send representatives to Saudi Arabia once further progress is made.

The Foreign Ministry is ready to give all the facts to Saudi Arabia, Dr Surin said.

Vietnam

Agency for Tracing MIA's Issues Communique

BK0112064592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vetnamese 0500 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Communique issued by the Vietnam Agency for Tracing Missing People—date not given]

[Text] Prompted by humanitarian and lenient traditions, so far, our government and people have always regarded the tracing of U.S. personnel missing during the war as a purely humanitarian issue. It is our policy to cooperate with the U.S. Government and people to settle this issue as soon as possible. The U.S. Government and people have highly appreciated and valued Vietnam's humanitarian policy, goodwill, and cooperation.

The Vietnam Agency for Tracing Missing People recently received information from a number of individuals or groups of people claiming that they kept or had information about remains of U.S servicemen in certain places and were willing to hand in those remains or supply that information.

Investigation has revealed that most of that information turns out to be false. Except for a few persons motivated by humanitarian concerns and a constructive spirit, most have resorted to fraudulent maneuvers, trading in any kind of remains available to make money. This is completely at variance with our people's moral standards and our state law.

In expressing the aspirations of American families whose relatives went missing during the Vietnam War, in his recent visit to Vietnam U.S. Senator John Kerry earnestly asked those people with U.S. servicemen's remains in their possession to voluntarily hand them over to the Vietnam Agency for Tracing Missing U.S. Personnel so that the latter can turn them over to the U.S. side. He asserted once again that it is not the U.S. Government's policy to pay for these remains.

In response to this concern, the Vietnam Agency for Tracing Missing People hereby requests all those possessing remains or having information about remains believed to be those of U.S. personnel to notify or voluntarily hand them in to the local authorities. If results based on scientifically sound experiments indicate that they are indeed remains of U.S. personnel, providers will be reimbursed for reasonable costs.

The Vietnam Agency for Tracing Missing People would like to thank the people and administration at all levels for their assistance so far. It also hopes to continue receiving prompt cooperation so it can fulfill this humanitarian task as soon as possible.

Reportage, Commentary on Li Peng's Visit

CPV Advisor Receives Li Peng

BK0412145192 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 4—Nguyen Van Linh, advisor to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, today received Chinese Premier Li Peng and his party on visit to Ho Chi Minh City.

Premier Li Peng conveyed to advisor Nguyen Van Linh best regards from party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and other Chinese party and state leaders.

Premier Li Peng expressed his pleasure for having an opportunity to visit Vietnam and witness the Vietnamese people's important achievements in the process of renovation, and to exchange views with Vietnamese leaders on measures to further strengthen the friendship and neighbourliness between Vietnam and China.

For his part, Advisor Nguyen Van Linh asked Premier Li Peng to convey his greetings to party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and other Chinese party and state leaders.

Advisor Nguyen Van Linh expressed his hope that the friendship between the two parties and states of Vietnam and China would continue to develop, and that the existing problems would be settled on the basis of equality, mutual respect, in the interest of the people of the two countries and for peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

Li Peng Departs 4 Dec

BK0412150992 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 4—Chinese Premier and Mrs. Li Peng and his party this afternoon left Ho Chi Minh City, the second leg of their official visit to Vietnam.

While here, the Chinese delegation was received by Vo Tran Chi, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and secretary of the city party committee, Truong Tan Sang, acting chairman of the city people's committee, and others.

Speaking at a banquet given at the Thong Nhat Conference Hall, city party Secretary Vo Tran Chi expressed his belief that following the visit by the Chinese delegation, the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China in general, and between the Ho Chi Minh City and Chinese localities in particular, would further be consolidated and developed in the interest of the two peoples.

Li Lanqing, Politburo member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, minister of foreign economic relations and trade, on behalf of Premier Li Peng, expressed the joy at the Chinese delegation to visit Vietnam. He said he hoped that the cooperation in the economic and trade fields between China and Ho Chi Minh City would further be broadened.

Premier Li Peng and his party visited the Thanh Le Import-Export Commercial Company in Song Be Province, and the Footwear and Garment Company (Leggamex) and some other places in the Ho Chi Minh City.

Sends Message of Thanks

BK0512144592 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 5—Concluding his official friendship visit to Vietnam, Prime Minister of the Chinese State Council Li Peng yesterday sent a message to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet expressing his thanks for Vietnam's friendly, warm and solemn reception to the Chinese delegation. The Chinese premier also expressed his belief that the neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation between China and Vietnam will constantly develop on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Visit 'New Step' in Cooperation

BK0512074192 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 5—In its editorial today NHAN DAN says that the result of Chinese Premier Li Peng's official visit to Vietnam is a new step in the development of the Vietnam-China friendship and cooperation.

The paper notes that the talks and contacts have affirmed the unanimity of viws of both sides that the further consolidation and strengthening of the Sino-Vietnamese neighbourly cooperation and friendship meets the basic interests and the common aspiraion of the people of the two countries and is beneficial to peace, stability and development in the region.

Regarding the problems left by history and newly emerging problems, the two sides re-affirmed the agreements reached during the high-level meeting in 1991 which provide that the border and territorial disputes should be settled by peaceful negotiations.

On the basis of the principles of recognized norms of international law, the two sides shall strive to reach agreements on the basic principles to solve the border and territorial dispute and also on these principles shall accelerate the negotiating process aimed at arriving at an early solution to the border and territorial dispute, both on the sea and on land.

We sincerely hope that the result of this important visit will contribute to further strengthening the Vietnam-China friendship and cooperation for the basic and long-term interests of the people of the two countries and for peace, stability and development in the region.

Commentary Views 'Goodwill Visit'

OW0512081192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in Mandarin 0830 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Unattributed station commentator; from the "International Current Events" program]

[Text] Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in Hanoi on the 30th of this month [as heard] on an official goodwill visit to Vietnam. This important event shows that Vietnam and China are making great efforts to accelerate the process of normalization of relations between our two countries. Observations on this event by our commentator on international events is as follows:

Chinese Premier Li Peng's current visit to Vietnam is the first one a Chinese premier has paid to Vietnam since 1970. Of late, Vietnamese and Chinese mass media have carried many reports and articles on relations between our two countries as well as the Chinese government head's visit to Vietnam. This indicates that Vietnam and China both speak highly of the significance of this visit. Apparently, this visit will help to quickly accelerate the process of normalization of relations between our two countries, as well as the two countries' cooperation in various fields, especially in trade. In China, Wei Xiaolong, deputy director of the Asian Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, has said that China hopes that economic and trade cooperation between the two countries will be enhanced following Premier Li Peng's current visit. He added: We are sure that after the series of accords have been signed, China will start intensifying its direct investment in Vietnam.

According to China's RENMIN RIBAO, the development of trade relations between Vietnam and China has been rapidly reinstated. The two countries' total imports and exports during the first nine months of this year reached $104 million, topping that of the same period last year by more than three times [liang bei duo]. People are deeply convinced that this figure will continue to increase following Premier Li Peng's current visit.

Premier Li Peng also pointed out in his congratulatory message to Premier Vo Van Kiet in October that continuing to consolidate and strengthen Sino-Vietnam relations is in the basic interest and aspirations of our two peoples. Through the common efforts exerted by the two sides, friendly and good-neighborly relations between China and Vietnam will certainly develop further.

Against this backdrop, Vietnam is deeply convinced that Premier Li Peng will achieve significant success in his current official goodwill visit in Vietnam and that the visit signifies a new step in the development of friendly Vietnamese-Chinese relations and cooperation.

Defense Minister Leaves for China 7 Dec

BK0712031792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 7 (AFP)—Vietnam's defense minister, General Doan Khue, left here Monday for an official visit to China, a Vietnamese foreign ministry spokesman said.

The official friendship visit comes at the invitation of Khue's Chinese counterpart, General Qin Jiwei, the spokesman said. He provided no other details.

Khue, the fifth-ranking member of Vietnam's Communist Party politburo, is the first Vietnamese military chief to visit china since a brief but fierce border war in 1979.

His trip follows a visit to Vietnam last week by Chinese Premier Li Peng, who pledged to settle his country's disputes with Vietnam through peaceful negotiations and said China's military would be used only for defense.

Beijing and Hanoi normalized diplomatic relations 13 months ago, but their long-running disputes over demarcation of land and sea borders have continued to generate friction.

Vietnam has been left without a principal arms supplier following the collapse of the Soviet Union, but military sources say Hanoi does not consider China to be a viable substitute.

Khmer Rouge Acts Denounced, UN Action Urged

BK0612145192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Commentary by Duong Quang Minh: "The Khmer Rouge Can Never Change Their Color"]

[Text] The implementation of the peace process in Cambodia is entering a new, serious stage. This is due to the Khmer Rouge's refusal to canton their troops and to turn in weapons as required by the Paris peace accord on Cambodia. In fact, the Khmer Rouge are making preparations to escalate the war in the country. Mr. Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, said at the SNC [Supreme National Council of Cambodia] conference in Beijing in early November that his faction will continue its preparations and that a crisis may erupt in Cambodia at any time.

Monitoring the Cambodian situation, many foreign news agencies reported that the Khmer Rouge are recruiting new troops. These newly recruited soldiers will be provided with clothing, weapons, and food. They normally work in hamlets and villages but will immediately report to combat units upon receiving orders from the Khmer Rouge. Along the Thai-Cambodian border, the Khmer Rouge are building many secret routes in anticipation of military operations in the dry season. Even at present, they are attacking and trying to occupy territories under the State of Cambodia's jurisdiction.

Given the Khmer Rouge's provocative acts against UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] at present, one can see that the Khmer Rouge intended all along to obstruct the implementation of the Paris peace accord. On 8 November, a Khmer Rouge force attacked a UN observation post near the Cambodian-Thai border in the Preah Vihear region. On 16 November, in the area of Stung Treng Province, a UN electoral team convey comprised of two electoral officials, two UN policemen, and four Uruguayan soldiers, were stopped by the Khmer Rouge and chased away from the voter registration site. The UNTAC spokesman said that the Khmer Rouge have blocked and are blocking the registration of voters in many localities in Cambodia. On 21 November, a 20th UNTAC aircraft was fired upon while flying from Kompong Thom Province in a northwesterly direction. On the same day, Khmer Rouge troops fired many machine-gun rounds at a Thai Army Engineering Unit attached to the UNTAC forces who were working on Highway No. 5, about 25 km west of Battambang, wounding one Thai soldier.

Many foreign journalists commented that the Khmer Rouge can never change their color. The U.S. paper THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR recently wrote: It is not surprising to see the Khmer Rouge trying to obstruct the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia. The public has realized that the Khmer Rouge—who were notorious for their genocidal crimes in the late '70s and who have stubbornly refused cantonment—are making deceitful attempts to return to power in Cambodia.

In his book entitled "How Pol Pot Attains Power," U.S. professor (Daniel Nann) of the Yale University's Southeast Asia History Department wrote: Since the signing of the Paris peace accord in October 1991, the Khmer Rouge have obviously deceived the world. During the past year, the Khmer Rouge took advantage of their presence in the SNC to expand their military control in various parts of Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge have stored weapons and earned money through selling Cambodia's natural resources. They also cooked up fabrications to mislead the public. It is unfair that the United Nations did not control the Khmer Rouge's acts while the three other Cambodian factions were forced to implement the Paris peace accord. The author further wrote: The Khmer Rouge is now threatening the Cambodian people. If the international community does not take any decisive action, the Khmer Rouge—when developed into their full force—will pose a serious threat to the political situation in Cambodia.

The UN Security Council is striving to find an appropriate means of accelerating the implementation of the peace process in Cambodia. Different ideas have been contributed. Many have suggested that further patience should be observed to persuade the Khmer Rouge to implement the

Paris peace accord. Some others have demanded that pressure should be applied on the Khmer Rouge, especially economic pressure. Other people have suggested that military measures should be taken because the Khmer Rouge are too stubborn. It is noteworthy that the UN secretary general and other UN officials responsible for the Cambodian issue have suggested that measures should be taken to change the UN role in Cambodia to cope with the current situation. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said: The UN Security Council should carry out a series of measures to force the Khmer Rouge to participate in implementing the peace process. He has suggested that the UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia should be authorized to take action against violations of the cease-fire agreement, that more control posts should be set up, and that patrol teams should be established. Meanwhile, Mr. Akashi, chief of UNTAC, said: UNTAC will not hesitate to use its power to ensure that all Cambodian factions comply with the commitments stated in the Paris peace accord. General John Sanderson, commander of the UNTAC military forces said: Due to the Khmer Rouge refusal to implement the second phase of the cease-fire, UNTAC forces have to assume the duty of ensuring safety for the registration of voters. If warranted, UN military personnel will be fully armed at certain localities and will take proper action under urgent circumstances.

The world public is monitoring the Khmer Rouge schemes and tactics, while waiting for the United Nations to take serious action in accordance with its position and role.

Bilateral Relations With Laos Reviewed

BK0612135192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Commentary by Kien Nam: "The Vietnam-Laos Friendly Relations Will Remain Evergreen"; from the "International Topic" program]

[Summary] The Uncle Ho saying "When one is in love, one does not mind climbing mountains, crossing rivers, or surmounting hills. Vietnam and Laos have affection that is deeper than the waters of the Red and Mekong rivers" opened the way for the two fraternal countries and peoples of Laos and Vietnam to help one another during a period of nearly half a century. The two countries have formed a special traditional friendship, shared the same revolutionary goals and theories, and have become linked by organic relations in security, development, natural resources, environment, communications and transportation, and so forth.

"Late President Kaysone Phomvihan, on his visit to Hanoi in October 1991, affirmed that the friendship relations and special unity between Laos and Vietnam were formed by the objective necessities and open-minded view on strategy of great President Ho Chi Minh, who also established our two parties. The relations, which have overcome many challenges over several decades of revolutionary struggle by a number of generations, have consistently consolidated, developed, and become a priceless legacy and decisive factor for the existence and development of our two countries. That priceless heritage has strongly accelerated the comprehensive bilateral assistance and cooperation in many fields.

"Although the two countries have been facing many difficulties and ordeals caused by complicated changes in the world situation and by natural disasters and flash floods, those special relations have been continuously strengthened and developed under the spirit of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship and Cooperation Agreement signed on 18 July 1977." All the cooperative economic, cultural, education, medical, and transportation projects in many localities of Laos and Vietnam carry the marks of that special unity. Moreover, bilateral trade has steadily improved with the 1991 export volume between the two countries which reached $30 million, double the 1990 figure.

"At the Savannakhet Province party congress, late President Kaysone Phomvihan stated that the changes in the former USSR and East Europe have affected the power balance in the world. Those complicated changes have brought unfavorable results to Laos. Enemies hoped that with their peaceful evolution strategy, Laos would not last in the present international situation. However, Laos is not only standing firm but is also moving forward strongly because it has a solid foundation which is the undaunted struggle tradition of the multiethnic Lao people under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and the fine comradely relations with Vietnam and many countries in the world."

News Conference Held on Upcoming Assembly Session

BK0412151192 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 4—Chairman of the Office of the National Assembly Vu Mao held here today a press conference on the second session of the Ninth National Assembly to be held here from December 9-23.

Present at the press conference was Le Xuan Trinh, head of the government's office.

Speakingg at the press conference, Mr. Vu Mao said at this session, the National Assembly will hear the government's report on the implementation of the state's plan and budget in 1992, and additional reports on the implementation of law, the prevention of corruption and smuggling, external relations, etc.

The National Assembly will discuss and adopt the amendments to the law on foreign investment, penal code, as well as examining a number of laws including the land law and some other important issues.

Japanese Ambassador Visits Son La Province

BK0412142992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] At the invitation of the Ministry of Forestry and the Son La provincial people's committee, His Excellency

Hiroyuki Yushita, Japanese ambassador; His Excellency (Kiyoshi Kyndoma), counselor; and nine attaches and experts at the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam visited Son La Province from 21 to 23 November. This was the first visit of the Japanese ambassador to the northwestern Vietnamese Province of Son La.

During their stay in the province, the Japanese diplomats were warmly received by Luong An and Tong Thi Phong, respectively chairman of the Son La provincial people's committee and secretary of the Son La city party committee. The delgation was briefed on the socioeconomic situation, as well as on the favorable conditions and difficulties of the people of 12 nationalities in the province.

It is the duty of the people of Son La to cover hollow land and bare hills with greenery and successfully preserve watershed forests for the Da and Ma River basins, while gradually improving infrastructure and roads, encouraging compatriots not to grow poppies, and opposing drug addiction. This is the province's major program.

Ambassador Hiroyuki Yushita expressed his profound sympathy for the people of various nationalities in the province who still have to overcome numerous difficulties. He also expressed hope for ever closer cooperation between Japan and Vietnam so that favorable conditions can be created for the people of Vietnam in general and Son La in particular to carry out economic development and improve their livelihood.

State Planning Committee Chief Visits Japan

BK0412080992 Hanoi VNA in English 0548 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 4—In a meeting with NIHON KEIZAI correspondent on December 2d in Tokyo, Do Quoc Sam, head of Vietnam's State Planning Committee, welcomed the Japanese Government's resumption of aid to Vietnam. He also expressed hope that Japan will cooperate with Vietnam in implementing the agreed projects in the form of combining government development aid with investment by Japanese private companies.

The day before, Do Quoc Sam held talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe. He proposed that Japan cooperate in building the Yaly Hydroelectric Power Plant with a design capacity of 690,000 kw and an investment capital of more than 500 million US dollars, as well as in building infrastructural projects including communications and transport facilities in Vietnam.

Vo Van Kiet Meets 5th, 10th Precinct Committees

BK0112020292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] During a working visit to the South, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet worked with the party commitees amd people's committees of the fifth and the tenth precincts of Ho Chi Minh City, the place where he had been recommended for election to the Ninth National Assembly. As a National Assembly deputy for these precincts, the prime minister was very concerned with some particular issues of each of the precincts, such as industrial, small industry and handicrafts production, urban management, employment, and social vices, etc.

The prime minister took notes of those improvements and achievements attained by the two precincts in the last 10 months. He contributed some important opinions on the directions and solutions for the existing socioeconomic issues, laying emphasis on the need to tap all latent potentials, branches and trades, as well as the capital of each establishment and each family. To seek capital assistance from relatives living overseas, it is necessary to allow private businessmen to enter into joint ventures with foreign countries and to obtain shares in state enterprises in order to develop production, create jobs, and bring about a favorable environment for foreign investment.

The prime minister stressed that antismuggling and anticorruption must be considered as the current primary tasks of all party committees and local authorities at the precinct and ward levels, and must become a self-imposed duty of every citizen. Based on the characteristics of each precinct, it is necessary to determine appropriate steps so as to ensure the best results for each area of work. A significant measure is to take stern and prompt disciplinary action against offenders who are party members and legal action against other offenders, no matter what position they may hold.

The State will examine and amend the penalties in the criminal act, including the seizure of all properties obtained from smuggling or corruption.

The prime minister also advised the two precincts to pay adequate attention to the program for the control of hunger and poverty, as well as to solving the housing problem and the struggle against social vices.

Nong Duc Manh Receives Nghe An Delegation

BK0212104592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 30 November at the National Assembly office, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, Political Bureau member and National Assembly chairman, held a working session with a delegation from Nghe An Provincial People's Council led by comrade Tran Van Nghe, chairman of the provincial people's council. This meeting follows the delegation's observation tour of the people's councils at various levels in Quang Ninh, Ha Bac, and Vinh Phu provices.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh welcomed the achievements of the party committee and people of Nghe An in general and of the people's councils at all levels of Nghe An in particular. They have overcome many difficulties such as natural disasters and made good progress in economic, cultural and social aspects. Especially, Nghe An has taken care of 720,000 multiethnic compatriots of its six highland districts and four midland districts.

Chairman Nong Duc Manh took note of the views of the local electorate as well as the people's suggestions on policies on agriculture, communications, electricity, and the management and exploitation of natural resources.

The chairman pointed out that as Nghe An is a large and heavily populated province with all types of terrain—highlands, sea, midlands, and plain. It is rich in natural resources and has great potential in general. The people's councils at various levels of Nghe An should improve their work and renovate the contents and work methods to encourage all people to join with the local party organization and the local administration in bringing the province forward. They should balance their budget, solve hunger and poverty, and build a prosperous province worthy of their revolutionary tradition and of being the birthplace of President Ho Chi Minh.

Political Publishing Establishment Approved

BK0412031392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] The party Central Committee Secretariat has decided to set up a national political publishing establishment due to the need to improve the quality of the publication of political and theoretical books, based on the request of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department and the Ministry Culture and Information, and with the approval of the prime minister of the government.

The Information and Theory Publishing House of the Marxist-Leninist and Ho Chi Minh Ideology Research Institute, the Ideological and Cultural Publishing House of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department, and the judicial Publishing House will be merged into one single national political publishing establishment called the Su That Publishing House.

The Su That Publishing House will be directly subordinate to the party Central Commitee Secretariat and placed under the management of the state in the common publishing system according to the law. The Su That Publishing House is duty bound to edit and publish all political and theoretical books to help enable the Marxist-Leninist and Ho Chi Minh ideology outlook to retain a leading position in moral and social life; to disseminate the lines, standpoints, and policies of the party and state; to enlarge the political, theoretical, and legal knowledge of the people; and to serve the process of renovation and the two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland.

President Le Duc Anh Greets 341st Division

BK2911140992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 22 Nov 92

["Text" of President Le Duc Anh's letter of greetings to the 341st Division on its 20th founding anniversary—date of letter not given]

[Text] Dear comrades: On the occasion of the commemoration of the 341st Division's 20th founding anniversary, 23 November 1972-23 November 1992, on behalf of the party and state, I cordially convey my kind regards and warm greetings to all cadres, combatants, wounded and sick soldiers, families of fallen combatants, and retired comrades of the division.

During the past 20 years, under the party leadership and with support and assistance from the people, generations of cadres and combatants of the 341st Division have consistently developed the party and nation's glorious tradition and the quality of Uncle Ho's soldiers. Under all circumstances you, comrades, have consistently strengthened unity to carry out tasks in a creative and bold manner, while striving to overcome all hardships and difficulties to outstandingly fulfill all the assigned tasks. You have greatly contributed to the cause of national liberation, unification, and the defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland while making great efforts to fulfill lofty international obligations.

The division has, on two occasions, received the People's Armed Forces Heroic Unit title bestowed by the state. Many units and individuals of the division have been awarded with heroic titles and certificates of distinction.

On this occasion, I highly commend all cadres and combatants of the division for their achievements scored during the past 20 years.

Dear comrades, under the party leadership, the nation's renovation undertaking has scored very important achievements, thus opening new potential for development. However, the current situation at home and abroad has caused new ordeals for us to tackle. To contribute to triumphantly implementing resolutions of the Seventh Communist Party Congress of Vietnam and those of the party Central Committee, each cadre and combatant of the division must seriously implement all lines and policies set by the party and state, scrupulously carry out national defense and security tasks in the new situation, strengthen his political background, and firmly maintain the socialist goal. The division must strive to develop its glorious tradition, maintain its spirit of selflessness, strictly observe discipline, uphold its determination to fight and to win, enhance the spirit of revolutionary vigilance, and stand ready for combat to attain victory under all circumstances. You, comrades, must strive to actively and creatively carry out tasks to achieve self-reliance, strengthen unity, broaden democracy, abide by discipline, promote close relationships with the people, coordinate with friendly units, improve the daily life of soldiers, build the division into a comprehensively strong unit, fulfill all tasks, and forever maintain the quality of the heroic unit of the People's Armed Forces.

I wish you, comrades, good health and progress.

My cordial and determined-to-win salutations to you all.

[Signed] Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Premier Issues Decision Banning Cigarette Ads

BK0312073292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] On 19 November, the prime minister issued Directive No. 13-TTG prohibiting the use of the mass media for cigarette advertisement purposes and ordering the immediate removal of cigarette advertisement boards already set up in a number of areas.

On 23 November, the Ministry of Culture and Information issued an official note requesting papers, journals, news bulletins, and radio and television stations from the central down to local levels to put an immediate end to cigarette advertisements. The removal of cigarette advertisement boards in the various localities rests with the responsibilities of directors of local cultural and information services.

Prime Minister Issues Decision on Tax Reductions

BK0312073392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] The prime minister has issued Decision No. 110-TTG supplementing and amending some provisions of the collection system to be applied to interests generated by the use of state budget allocations. Under this decision, the Ministry of Finance shall temporarily postpone the collection of taxes on interests generated by the use of state budget allocations to carry out activities not related to production or business transactions by the various business establishments.

The tax collfction rate to be applied to a number of sectors and trades have been supplemented as follows:

—0.2 percent for the water supply sector;

—0.2 percent for the production of drugs, medical equipment, teaching aids, and physical education and sports equipment; and

—0.2 percent for textbook, teaching aid, physical education and sports equipment trading; book publishing services; and grain trading.

The prime minister also decided to amend point 1 under Article 7 of Decree No. 22-HDBT on application for tax reduction on interests generated by the use of state budget allocations as follows:

—Units experiencing objective difficulties in production or business transactions but fulfilling their obligation to pay taxes on interest generated by the use of state budget allocations shall be eligible for tax reduction corresponding to production or business losses incurred by objective causes. Application for tax reduction on interest generated by the use of state budget allocations shall be considered before tax reduction reqests for other business activities, if any, in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Finance.

Fiji

Rabuka Invites Opposition to Unity Government

BK0412041492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Fiji's prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, has surprised Parliament by offering to step down from leadership to facilitate the formation of a government of national unity. Mr. Rabuka made an emotional appeal to the country's two main Indian political parties, a Fijian nationalist group, and an independent member of parliament to cross from opposition and join the government.

At present, there are no Indian politicians on the government side in Parliament. Mr. Rabuka became prime minister in June after his Fijian Political Party formed a coalition with a party representing small minorities, such as Europeans, Chinese, and people of mixed race.

In Parliament, Mr. Rabuka referred to an article in the PACIFIC ISLAND monthly magazine, suggesting there were dissatisfaction in government ranks over his leadership and that a group including former finance minister, Josevata Kamikamica, was working to undermine him. The prime minister said he was not worried by the report. He then invited the opposition to cross the floor of Parliament and form a government of national unity, adding that he was prepared to step down as prime minister if others consider there were someone better able to lead the country.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says members of the 70-seat parliament appeared to be astonished by Mr. Rabuka's statement and opposition groupings have been meeting to discuss this.

Delhi Radio Reports Move

BK0412162492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Fiji prime minister, Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka, has invited ethnic Indian opposition and other politicians to join the proposed national unity government with indigenous Fijians. The surprise offer was made at a news conference in the capital Suva. Mr. Rabuka also offered to step down for the formation of a new government. Mr. Rabuka, a former Army chief, overthrew an ethnic Indian-dominated government in two militry coups in 1987. He became the country's prime minister in June.

'Hard-Line' Movement Rejects Unity Government

BK0512070792 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 Dec 92

[Text] The Fijian Taukei Movement has rejected a call by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka for the formation of a government of national unity which will include Indian politicians. The call was made in parliament yesterday by Mr. Rabuka when he invited opposition parties to cross the floor and join in a united government in order to bring about reconciliation between the country's Fijian and Indian population. He also offered to resign if it was considered there was someone better to lead the country.

However, a spokesman for the hard-line Fijian Taukei movement, (Chosaia Undiani), has rejected Mr. Rabuka's proposal. Mr. (Undiani) said there was no way the Taukei Movement would ever accept or even consider the idea of a government of national unity. He said such a government would only cause political and social problems.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says that it was with the backing of the Taukei Movement in 1987 that the then Colonel Rabuka used the military to overthrow the Indian-dominated government of the late Dr. Timoci Bavadra. There had been no formal response yet from the mainly Indian opposition to Mr. Rabuka's invitation to join the government.

Opposition To Talk With Rabuka on Unity Call

BK0612063892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 6 Dec 92

[Text] Fiji's two main Indian political parties have reacted favorably to Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka's proposal to form a government of national unity. In a report from Suva, AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS [AAP] says the leader of the National Federation Party (Jiram Redi) is scheduled to hold talks with Mr. Rabuka this week on how the proposal could be made to work. The leader of the Fiji Labor Party, Mahendra Chowdury, has also welcomed the proposal. However, AAP says it remains to be seen whether Mr. Rabuka can convince his own Fijian Political Party to share power.

Yesterday, the hard-line Fijian Taukei Movement rejected the unity call saying it would only cause political and social problems. Support for Mr. Rabuka's proposal has come from the Australian foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans. Senator Evans said a government of national unity would be major step towards reconciliation between the different ethnic groups in Fiji.

New Zealand

Country Allegedly Shipping Chemical Waste Abroad

BK0712103892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 7 Dec 92

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Dec 7 (AFP)—New Zealand has been secretly exporting deadly waste chemical to France despite public protests there, an internal government paper reveals. The chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are used in electrical transformers and capacitors, and New Zealand is discontinuing their use.

French Environment Minister Segolene Royal called for a total ban on such imports after a controversial Australian shipment last September that led to protests by environmentalists at Le Havre. But the paper, obtained by AFP on Monday, said a French Government-owned company involved "has assured (New Zealand) officials that they wish the trade to continue."

The paper was written by an official in the environment division of the Ministry of External Relations and Trade to an Environment Ministry official. It said because Royal and French Trade and Industry Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn disagree over PCBs, Prime Minister Pierre Beregovoy will have to decide the New Zealand issue.

Simon Gimson, press secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Don McKinnon who confirmed the contents of the paper, said it contained "sensitive matter" that had yet to be considered by the cabinet.

Gimson confirmed there was an existing PCB trade with France but he denied it was a secret. "The trade has continued, we don't go around declaring where all exports from New Zealand go."

The key issue, according to the paper, is how New Zealand can dispose of its last remaining 300 tonnes of waste PCBs. The document does not say how much PCB has already been exported. But the environmental organisation Greenpeace claims New Zealand had 1,000 tonnes two years ago.

The affair has political implications in New Zealand, which for more than 30 years has protested on environmental grounds about French nuclear tests in the South Pacific. New Zealand has in recent world forums tried also to portray itself as a pro-environment nation.

One paragraph in the paper warns: "There is a real risk of negative publicity if media attention again turns to the shipment of PCBs, both in terms of the impact such publicity may have on New Zealand's 'clean, green' image in France and Europe, and in terms of domestic criticism."

The paper said over the past year PCBs have been sent for incineration by a plant near Lyon in central France. But public protests there over Australian waste have led to a re-examination by France of such imports.

Gimson said there was no irony in sending waste to France after years of protesting at nuclear tests. "It's a matter of disposing PCBs in the safest environmental manner possible. It is our intention to have all PCBs removed from New Zealand by 1 January 1994." Shipment to France was considered the only economical and commercially viable alternative. But the issue was now covered by the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, which demands bilateral government agreements for waste exports.

"That is why something is being presented to cabinet. The paper is seeking cabinet guidance on whether or not to negotiate a bilateral agreement or whether to consider establishing incineration, an environmentally safe system, in New Zealand."

The paper said that in view of differences within the French Government "we would hope that the issue could be resolved before import of wastes has the opportunity to become an issue in forthcoming French elections."

The paper said there were two options if New Zealand could not send PCBs to France. One was domestic storage until another country could be found to take it, or alternatively domestic disposal, "which has previously been regarded as both uneconomic and politically unacceptable."

Military Willing To Drop Ban on Homosexuals

BK0712030692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0146 GMT 7 Dec 92

[Text] Wellington, Dec 7 (AFP)—New Zealand's Armed Forces are willing to lift their ban on homosexuals joining their ranks, a paper prepared by Defence Minister Warren Cooper said Monday.

The paper was leaked by the New Zealand AIDS Foundation. A spokesman for Cooper confirmed it was genuine, but said it had not yet gone to the ruling National Party caucus.

In the paper, Cooper said the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) was willing to comply with proposed human rights legislation banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

However, in an apparent reference to the HIV virus that brings on AIDS, it wished to still be able to exclude from the forces people with organisms in their body that might cause disease.

Homosexuals were rated as a high-risk group when AIDS emerged in the West in the 1980's, as well as heroin addicts, but the fatal syndrome's threat has since spread dramatically to include heterosexuals.

Cooper said that in order to maintain necessary discipline, the defence chief should be able to dismiss personnel whose sexual behaviour was "incompatible with the maintenance of good order within the NZDF or brings the NZDF into disrepute."

Cooper said this meant that homosexual behaviour by service personnel would be treated for disciplinary and administrative purposes in exactly the same way as heterosexual behaviour.

"Inappropriate homosexual or heterosexual sexual behaviour by service personnel will, if detected, result in disciplinary action and/or administrative release.

"Inappropriate sexual behaviour will, in practice, be behaviour which is incompatible with the maintenance of discipline in a service or which is likely to bring a service into disrepute," he said.

The fact that someone was a practising homosexual would not in itself lead to such action. A decision would be made on the merits of each case, Cooper said.